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Kent on Sunday

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Autumn of strike action threatened by teachers fed up with Gove

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

STEP in and stand up for teachers – or prepare for an autumn of discontent.

That is the message to Kent County Council's Paul Carter from teaching unions in Kent.

They have appealed to the County Hall leader to write to education secretary Michael Gove asking for meaningful talks in the dispute over teachers' pay, pensions and working conditions in a bid to avert strike action.

National Union of Teachers' (NUT) national executive member for the area, Dave Brinson, has since announced a coordinated strike in Kent and Medway planned for October 14.

But Kent's divisional secretary of the NUT, John Walder, said he was hopeful Cllr Carter would try to stop this happening by securing talks with Mr Gove.

Mr Walder and fellow union representative Mark Dickinson, national executive member for Kent and Medway at the NASUWT teachers' union, handed a letter to Cllr Carter in which they explained problems faced in their profession and urged him to step in.

"The Government's changes to teachers' pay, daily denigration of teachers, cuts to pensions and rising levels of workload and bureaucracy in schools are creating significant difficulties for schools in recruiting and retaining staff," they wrote.

"Children in Kent are particularly affected by staff vacancies and the lack of specialist teachers in their schools.

"Today, more than half of teachers say they are seriously considering leaving the teaching profession.

"This will be extremely damaging to the life chances of children and young

Continued on page 2

PRINCE CHARLES HEADS OUR WAY

ROYALS: Duke and Duchess of Cornwall will visit Chatham this month – **SEE INSIDE**

TOURISM

Wildlife parks vow for future

CHIEFS at Port Lympne and Howletts have moved to reassure visitors there is no intention of closing either venue.

It follows recent comments made by Damian Aspinall – son of the parks' founder John.

However, bosses at the parks said they were investing for the future. **PAGE 4**

ENVIRONMENT

Oak tree killer arrives in Kent

A POTENTIALLY devastating threat to the nation's oak tree population has been recorded in the county.

The bug sees affected trees 'bleed' sap.

Now those walking through woods are being urged to be on the look-out and not touch any infected trees. **PAGE 8**

EVENT

County Show proves a hit

AFTER the problems of last year, the Kent County Show proved a hit last weekend with more than 75,000 passing through its gates.

However, organisers are not yet sure if it did well enough to cover the extra costs incurred in improvements to car parks.

Full story inside. **PAGE 12**

Come for dinner... Stay for Breakfast

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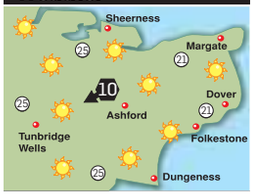

TODAY: Any fog dispersing to leave it warm and sunny. Moderate winds. Max temp 24-27C (75-81F). **TONIGHT:** Dry and clear. Min temp 14-17C (57-63F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	10.24	6.4	22.48	6.5
Margate	11.18	4.5	23.52	4.7
St Mary's	03.54	5.2	16.22	5.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 29C	Min 14C
Tuesday	Max 27C	Min 14C
Wednesday	Max 27C	Min 14C
Thursday	Max 26C	Min 14C
Friday	Max 26C	Min 15C
Saturday	Max 26C	Min 14C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

Teachers 'frustrated at Mr Gove's failure to take concerns seriously'

Continued from front page

people and it is vital the Government thinks again about the impact of its policies."

Speaking to KoS after the meeting, Mr Walder said it went well.

"We informed him of the problems facing teachers, some of which he didn't know about and is going away to look at," he said.

"Things have changed; in the old days the Tory-run council would not speak out against a Conservative government, but KCC is not particularly pleased by the behaviour of this central government.

"Cllr Carter has spoken out in the past, so we're hoping he will do so again."

The local Tory leader has previously found himself in hot water after speaking out against Mr Gove's education overhaul, attacking the free schools policy and advising schools not to apply for academy status back in 2011 – the latter for which he did a swift about-turn, denying he was at loggerheads with the Government.

The unions' first hope is to secure a "genuine dialogue" with Mr Gove to discuss their worries.

HELPING HAND? KCC's Paul Carter

"Morale is at an all-time low," said Mr Walder.

"It is high time Michael Gove seriously discussed teachers' concerns. It is a mistake on his part to believe they will just sit quietly by and see their profession continually attacked by this government for no good reason."

Representative of the NASUWT in Kent, Trevor Desmoyers-Davis, said they had previously tried without success to seek and discuss trade disputes.

He said: "Teachers are angry about the Government's relentless attacks on their pay and working conditions, and frustrated the secretary of state is failing to take their concerns seriously."

Teachers argue the cumulative impact of pay freezes, an "inadequate" pay increase of one per cent and issues over pension contributions since the current government took office, amounts to a 15 per cent fall in teachers' real income.

However, in a week when KCC is discussing a further £239 million cuts and potential further job losses, in addition to the 1,600 already slashed, whether the public – and private businesses struggling in these austere times – will feel sympathetic towards the teaching profession remains to be seen.

The planned October 14 strike will form part of a series of industrial action across the country in what is expected to be an autumn of discontent caused by the teaching industry.

National rallies are also being planned as well as a one-day, all-out national strike proposed before the end of the autumn term.

KoS contacted Cllr Carter for a response, but he was unavailable for comment.

TRANSPORT

Bus pass scheme could be rolled out

KENT County Council is to look at options for cheaper bus travel for young people up to the age of 18.

At a meeting at County Hall on Thursday, members said they would review the popular Kent Freedom Pass scheme to see if it could be rolled out further.

It follows a 15,000-signature petition from parents – prompting a debate by KCC – which stated that it was unfair the pass – costing £100 a year – was not available to six-formers or college students. Instead, once they reach 16, they must switch to a 16+ bus pass, costing £520 for the year.

Under changes by the Government, young people will have to stay in school until the age of 18, and parents argue that with this compulsory legislation it would be unfair if students aged from 16 to 18 are not offered the cheaper pass.

Lynne Miller, from Deal, who started the petition, said: "Although government cuts have had a knock-on affect all round, parents should still be supported.

"With the cost of everything so high now, higher travel costs are hard to find for me let alone those on lesser incomes."

COMING UP IN THE NEXT MONTH

Homes & Gardens
July 28

Make the most of your personal space, indoors and out, with our special feature.

Pure Weddings
August 4

Are you or someone you know getting ready for their big day? Then look no further than our special Pure Weddings supplement.

It's results time
August 17

Thousands of students will be receiving their A-level results – but what are the options, pass or fail?

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Huge crowds set to invade War and Peace

THOUSANDS are set to flood to Folkestone this weekend for the eagerly anticipated War and Peace Revival show.

Moved, for the first time in its history, from its traditional home at Paddock Wood's Hop Farm, it opened on Thursday at Folkestone Racecourse.

With the weather forecast good for the whole weekend, there are expected to be delays on the coastbound section of the M20, with the Highways Agency warning of heavy traffic around junction 11.

Those heading to the event are urged to check traffic conditions before setting out and allow extra time, if necessary, for their journey.

COURT

Jail for French driver

A FRENCH motorist who drove on the wrong side of a busy road in Tenterden, killing the driver of an oncoming car instantly, has been jailed for 18 months for causing death by careless driving.

Alexis Fleury, 25, was also banned from driving for three years.

The incident happened last August after he became lost while visiting his girlfriend. He had denied driving on the wrong side of the road, but police found evidence to the contrary.

EVENTS

Braced for big events

THE countdown is on to what could be the busiest weekend of the year in the east of the county, as a host of top events coincide.

Over the course of next weekend, July 27-28, will be the Whitstable Oyster Festival, the Sound Island Festival at Quex Park, and the eagerly anticipated Lounge on the Farm extravaganza at Merton Farm, Canterbury.

EDUCATION

Schools told to improve

SIX primary schools in Medway have been told by education inspector Ofsted they have to improve.

It comes a month after Ofsted found two in every five primary schools in Medway were underperforming. Fairview, Napier, Stoke, Walderslade, Thames View and the Bishop of Rochester Academy all require improvements.

LITERATURE

Commuter's novel journey to work proves an online success

Author stumbled upon money-spinner surrounded by dozing passengers

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

FOR most commuters, the daily journey into London is one to endure and perhaps catch up on some sleep.

But for one businessman, his jaunt to London was the opportunity to pen a best-selling book.

Andy Leeks, 33, from Headcorn, who describes himself as a "number cruncher" at a London finance firm, took just three months to pen a hit novel – all about the life of a commuter awake in a carriageway while all others around him snoozed.

And it proved such a hit he has now produced a string of follow-ups.

He told KoS: "It just struck me one day that everyone in my particular carriage, which is about 40 people, was asleep.

"It was a Monday morning in September last year, but I was feeling fresh.

"I know people are tired and that's what people do on the train, but I popped a statement on Facebook saying 'I can't believe it, it's Monday morning and everyone is asleep'.

"And the responses I got shocked me. All my friends came back telling me I was an idiot and should be asleep too."

WRITE ON: Author Andy Leeks

An online argument ensued where Mr Leeks created a list of activities people could complete while commuting into work and one of those included having enough time to write a book.

Mr Leeks added: "Without even really knowing it at the time, I'd pretty much set myself a task.

"I didn't tell anyone I was going to go and do it. But I started to write an online diary of each day of the life of a commuter.

"Some days it would be about people on the train, some days about something that happened to me or a thought process I went through.

"It's kind of a comical look at what goes on in the life of a commuter."

After three months As They Slept was born. And with help from friends, Mr Leeks created his book just in time for last Christmas.

And ever since, sales have soared.

He said: "I researched how to get a book printed and just before Christmas I popped it on Amazon and Kindle; it just all went crazy after that.

"It started off with two or three downloads a day and then the Kindle version came out at Christmas and before I knew what had happened I was getting 500 downloads a day.

"It went to number one in the comedy charts, number one in the biography charts and was number 38 overall on the whole of Amazon.

"The book stayed in the top 100 for about three months and I've sold just over 40,000 copies now."

The books were priced between 99p and £1.99 making Mr Leeks and his wife Emma a tidy profit just for staying awake and filling his commuter time.

And the writer didn't stop there. He continued writing his diary for a year and has released them as follow-up novels every three months with the sequels continuing the trend of success.

His latest book – Don't Knock It Until You've Tried It – sees the author try unusual activities around the country.

With his army of social media followers eager to read his next offering and a baby on the way, Mr Leeks surely won't be falling asleep anytime soon.

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TOURISM

Future of Aspinall's parks secure, insist bosses at top wildlife sites

By Joe Bill
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BOSSES of Kent's premier wildlife parks say their futures are secure - and vowed to spend even more money on them to ensure they remain a tourist hotspot.

Recent comments by Damian Aspinall, chairman of the charitable Aspinall Foundation, which runs the park, had hinted that the long term future of Port Lympne, near Hythe, and Howletts in Bekesbourne, near Canterbury may be in doubt.

He had said the parks would remain open while there remained a need for "real conservation". Park chiefs this week moved to reassure visitors.

Managing director Bob O'Connor, said: "We want to assure our visitors that Howletts and Port Lympne will not close – in fact we are heavily investing and developing our award-winning accommodations at Port Lympne to help generate the necessary funds for our conservation projects both in here in the UK and overseas."

Bosses have promised that plans are under way to convert the mansion and gardens at Port Lympne into a boutique hotel and a further investment will see the development of luxury tree lodges.

Mr O'Connor added: "We are committed to Kent and we believe that these new accommodations will bring even more visitors to the area."

TRANSPORT

Extra summer trains

TRAIN operator Southeastern has confirmed it is to run more services over the summer to transport day-trippers to the Kent coast.

An extra service from London to Ramsgate will begin on Monday and run every week day until August 30.

The service will also stop at Faversham, Whitstable, Herne Bay, Birchington-on-Sea, Margate and Broadstairs along the way, providing an extra 1,082 seats.

CRIME

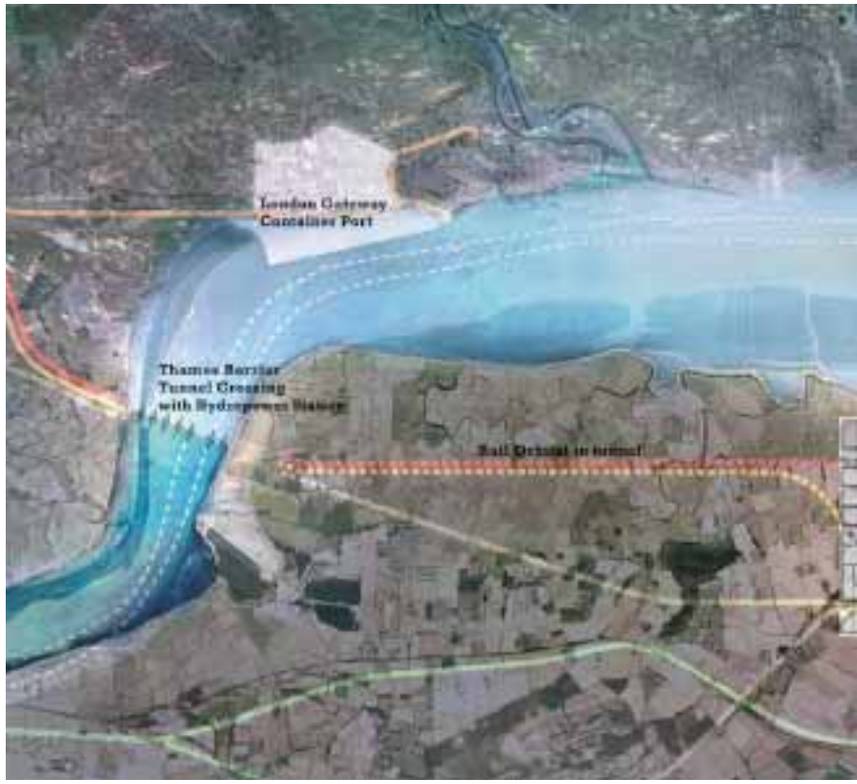
Cop's medals stolen

SPECIAL police medals representing service during the Queen's Jubilee and the London Olympics have been swiped during a burglary on an officer's house in Maidstone.

The house in Giddyhorn Lane was raided on June 24. A long-service medal was also swiped.

PC Tim Murrell said: "The medals are quite identifiable as they are only issued to police officers, so I'm hopeful that if anyone is offered items like this or finds them, contact us."

AVIATION



Boris makes last as he backs Grain

By Marijke Cox
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BORIS Johnson has finally gone cold on creating a giant multi-billion airport floating in the centre of the Thames Estuary – instead he's now throwing his weight behind a similiar scheme on the Isle of Grain.

The London Mayor has been the most vocal supporter of easing the south east's airport capacity issue by building an international hub in, or off the coast, of Kent.

And this week he made his opinion clear to the Davies Commission – tasked by the Government to examine the options available.

The independent commission, led by economist Sir Howard Davies, heard the mayor restate his case Heathrow should be shut and a bigger airport built on our doorstep or for Stansted to be expanded.

But instead of the site on an island in the estuary – dubbed Boris Island – he is now championing Lord Foster's four-runway design for Grain.

Unsurprisingly, his call has fallen on deaf ears in the county where there remains fierce opposition to the proposals.

Unveiling the findings of a year-long study by an independent group appointed by Mr Johnson, the mayor said he wanted a new town to be built where the current Heathrow Airport is located, with 250,000 homes.

Mr Johnson said: "Ambitious cities all over the world are already stealing a march on us and putting themselves in a position to eat London's breakfast, lunch and dinner by constructing mega airports that plug them directly into the global supply chains we need to be part of.

"Those cities have moved heaven and earth to locate their airports away from their major centres of population, in areas where they have been able to build airports with four runways or more."

He said the three optimal locations – all comprising four runways –are: On the Isle of Grain at the Hoo Peninsula; at Stansted; or on an artificial island in the middle of the Thames Estuary off the Kent coast.

Detailed proposals have been submitted to the Davies Commission.

Chairman of Demand Regeneration in North Kent, Neville Gaunt, backed the mayor's vision, stating the airport would be "the best thing ever to happen" to the area.

He said: "It would transform the lives of local people by generating employment, careers and opportunities for today's and future generations and thereby greatly improving living standards and the quality of life for thou-

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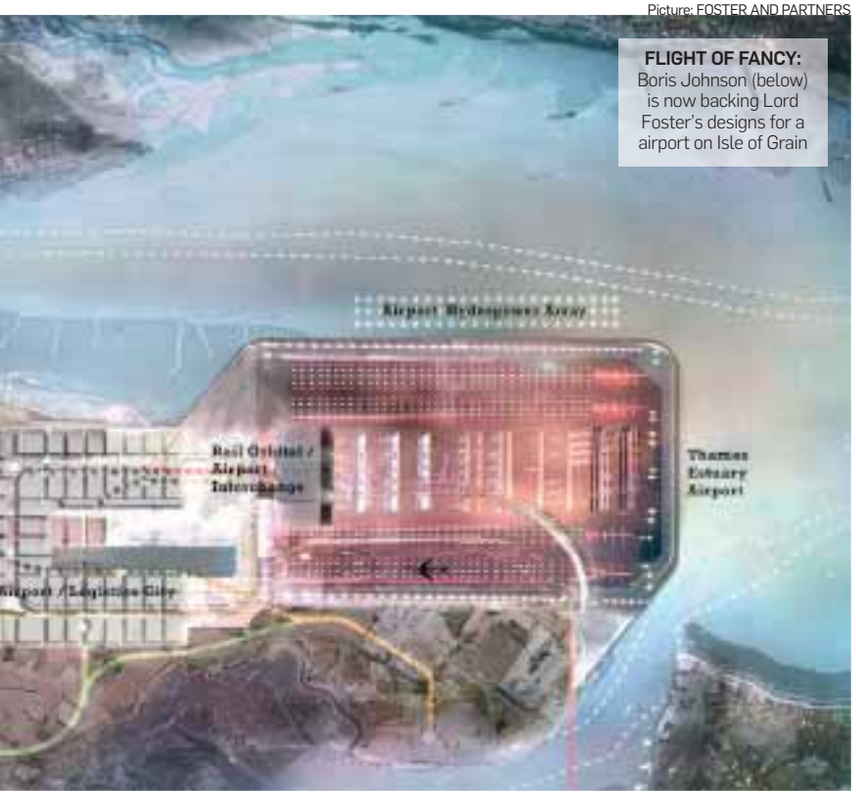
Picture: FOSTER AND PARTNERS



FLIGHT OF FANCY: Boris Johnson (below) is now backing Lord Foster's designs for a airport on Isle of Grain

throw of the dice airport proposals

sands of families and young people."

But Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council, again dismissed the estuary plan – a plan which would mean thousands of people potentially losing their homes.

Tens of thousands would also face the prospect of noise pollution.

Cllr Chambers said: "For five years now, Boris has failed to listen to the huge number of people who have said that placing an airport in north Kent, on or near the Thames Estuary, is a complete non-starter.

"There are no roads or rail lines there to support an airport that would carry up to 150 million passengers a year, and putting these in place would cost the taxpayer tens of billions of pounds – a needless waste of money, especially when you consider it would be on the wrong side of London for most. A new airport on the scale the mayor wants to force on north Kent would lead to the closure of Heathrow and devastate the west London economy.

"It would also lead to a huge population shift to this local area as it would need up to 100,000 people to work in it. This would lead to the need for a new city the size of Manchester being built.

"The fact that anyone would seek to do this on an area of global scientific and environmental significance, which is home to 300,000 migrating wildfowl, simply beggars belief.

"It would make a lot more sense to look at the air infrastructure already in place – London already has five airports and there are others nearby – and use the very much underused capacity at these while linking them by high speed rail.

"That would certainly seem a more sensible option than concentrating on airport vanity projects like the dead in the water Boris Island or Lord Foster's Isle of Grain fantasy creation."

HEATHROW BETTER DEAL

CAMPAIGNERS had taken heart after MPs appeared to torpedo plans for a Thames Estuary earlier this year.

In a report, the House of Commons Transport Committee called instead for Heathrow to have a third and possibly even fourth runway.

In addition, the Board of Airline Representatives this week said only one of the airlines it quizzed demonstrated any support for the estuary plans.

Instead, the vast majority preferred to see Heathrow expanded.

Gatwick has also outlined plans which could see its capacity increased.

ROYAL

Charles and Camilla to visit historic dockyard to celebrate patronage

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THE Duke and Duchess of Cornwall will be making a special visit to Kent later this month.

The couple, who spent the week nervously awaiting the birth of their first grandchild, are scheduled to visit the Historic Dockyard Chatham on Monday July 29.

The visit is to mark the Prince of Wales becoming patron of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust.

It was given the responsibility of maintaining the historic heart of the dockyard, with its Georgian buildings and more than 100-listed buildings, after the dockyard closed in 1984, following the withdrawl of the Royal Navy.

Prince Charles will become patron for a five-year term.

Admiral Sir Ian Garnett, chairman of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, said: "We are very pleased he has confirmed a visit to mark his patronage and see for himself what has been achieved since his last visit nine years ago."

VISIT: Prince Charles

The popular tourist attraction will be open as normal on July 29, with visitors on the day getting the chance to see the royal couple as they tour the site. Normal admission prices apply.

The visit comes just weeks after the Queen made a special visit to Canterbury to attend a parade to bid farewell to troops at the city's Howe Barracks, which is to close as a result of defence cuts.

CRIME

Tickets stolen for festival

MUSIC lovers are being warned not to fall victim to stolen tickets for this month's Sound Island Festival.

Officers are investigating a burglary where tickets for both days of the event, which stars Jessie J and Plan B, were swiped. But with barcodes on each ticket, organisers have cancelled all those taken – meaning they will not grant the holder access to the site.

WEATHER

Fire warning in heatwave

WITH no immediate end to the hot weather – with temperatures set to soar above 30-degrees again this week – fire crews are urging people to take extra care after several big blazes during the week.

Fire crews were called to tackle a gorse fine in Dungeness Road, Lydd and grassland alight on Dartford Heath.

No-one is believed to have been hurt in either incident.

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CHARITY

Dead swimmer's charities awaiting proof of mysterious £300k donation

Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO charities are nervously awaiting confirmation of an enormous £300,000 anonymous donation to a fund set up by tragic cross-Channel swimmer Susan Taylor.

Mrs Taylor, 34, "suddenly collapsed" as she came within a mile of the French coast last Sunday, after leaving Dover at dawn. The exact cause of death has yet to be confirmed.

Since news of her death broke, donations started flooding in from well-wishers.

At the point she set out on the swim, she had raised £3,000 for Rainbows, a children's hospice in her home county of Leicestershire, and Diabetes UK. But within days that figure had soared to more than £67,000.

Among the donors was TV star David Walliams who donated £1,000 after it emerged his cross-Channel swim in 2006 had inspired Mrs Taylor to take up the challenge herself.

However, charity chiefs were left stunned on Wednesday when £300,000 – to be split equally between the two charities – was donated online.

The firm behind the fundraising website said they are in "no doubt" it is genuine, but say the donor is insisting on remaining anonymous.

The payment is currently working its way through the banking system and is expected to be confirmed on Monday.

FATHER HAS 'LOST THE BEST PERSON IN THE WORLD'

Tragic Susan Taylor had gone part-time in her job as an accountant in order to allow her to raise more money for good causes, and had already done a parachute jump and wing-walked to raise funds.

But crossing the English Channel was her biggest challenge yet and one she had spent months preparing for.

After setting off from Samphire Hoe, friends and family say she was in good spirits and confident of success under the guidance of the Channel Swimming Association – one of the groups which oversees the dozens of swims across the shipping lane every year.

The 21-mile swim was being tracked and plotted by GPS and followed by friends on her Facebook page.

Travelling in a support boat were husband Stephen, 43, and paramedic brother Dave, 40.

But with Boulogne in sight, her sister said she "suddenly collapsed". She was airlifted to hospital but died at 7pm.

Her parents, Arthur and Joyce Wright, both 68, spoke of their distress. Her father said he had lost the "best person in the world".

There have been eight deaths since Captain Matthew Webb first swam the Strait of Dover in 1875. The last was Paraic Casey, 45, from Ireland, who died last July.

Of Mrs Taylor's death, the Channel Swimming Association said: "It was such a tragic loss under valiant circumstances."

SAD END: Susan Taylor 'suddenly collapsed' just one mile from completing cross-Channel swim

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ENVIRONMENT

Tree disease which leaves mighty oaks 'bleeding' to death, is detected in county

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A POTENTIALLY devastating threat to the nation's oak tree population has been identified in Kent with the symptoms seeing the trees literally 'bleeding' a distinctive looking sap.

Acute oak decline (AOD) has put conservationists on alert with the Midlands and south east among the areas worst affected.

And sightings include trees near Canterbury and Tenterden.

AOD targets trees mature oaks, older than 50 years, and can kill within 60 months.

WHAT IS AOD?

A RELATIVELY new condition in the oak trees of Britain, it was first identified 20-30 years ago.

It targets mature trees with key syptoms the distinctive black weeping patches. It can kill a tree within four-to-five years.

The cause of the problem is likely to be complex involving multiple agents but research continues. There is a suggestion a particular type of beetle – often found in trees with symptoms – could play a role, but this has yet to be confirmed.

The cause of the problem is unknown, but the Government has given the go-ahead to spending £1 million on researching the problem.

The Forestry Commission is warning woodland lovers in Kent to stay well away from infected trees and to report sightings.

A spokesman said: "The vast majority of sightings have been north of Kent, but there have been some in the county. There has never been a formal survey which is why the Government is now paying £1.1 million to do just that.

"The research funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is so we can formally model just where this is happening and where it might go.

"We are keen to let people know that when they go in to woodland they should take extra care to prevent spreading this disease by accidentally getting this sap on the hands or shoes

"There is previously unknown bacteria involved here and can easily be spread this way."

Julian Dormady, who leads the tree team at Bedgebury, in Goudhurst, said: "We do have oaks here, but ours are fine at present. It is certainly something we keep an eye on and will report any outbreaks to Defra."

The decision to organise a formal survey was prompted by last year's worries of Chalara fraxinea – better known as ash dieback – which kills ash trees.

Andrew Ogden, campaigns manager at Protect Kent, the local branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, told KoS: "The discovery that yet another disease is ravaging Britain's trees is obviously quite alarming.

"Altogether, there is a fear that much of our native and ancient woodland could be stripped of indigenous species, should these and other tree diseases spread across the countryside."

Defra said: "Defra has provided funding for a research project to increase our understanding of the disease."

Picture: CROWN COPYRIGHT/FORESTRY COMMISSION

ATTACKED: Oak trees left 'bleeding' by disease

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CRIME

Thug who stabbed ex-girlfriend in the head with screwdriver is jailed

A ROCHESTER man who stabbed his ex-girlfriend in the head with a screwdriver on Christmas Day has been jailed for five years.

Luke Merritt, 36, of Cypress Road, launched his brutal attack after asking her to look after £10, but she refused, suspecting he had been using heroin and drinking.

Later that night he accused her of stealing the cash.

He took a small, thin screwdriver from the bedside table and stabbed her in the back of the head. As she fled, Merritt stabbed her in the arm and leg with a knife.

He pleaded guilty to grievous bodily harm.

TRANSPORT

KCC vote Gravesham site then call for 2018 start on crossing

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall chiefs are calling on the Government to fast-track plans for a third Thames crossing and have it built and open five years ahead of schedule.

The consultation period into the three options put forward by the Government ended this week, with Kent County Council voting in favour of Option C – a crossing on land east of Gravesham.

But it did so with a host of caveats.

In a report published just 24 hours before the consultation closed, KCC urged the Department for Transport (DfT) to push ahead with construction of the new crossing to help ease congestion and boost the county's economy.

The report said: "KCC will urge DfT to significantly accelerate its programme of delivery to a 2018 start on site and an opening year of 2020, rather than the DfT stated starting date of no later than 2021, with an opening year of 2025.

"With a clear lead from Government, a 2018 start date would be feasible."

Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, added he believed a tunnel, not a bridge, would be the preferred option.

This is likely to win support from conservationists, but add to the cost of any such project.

He said: "What we don't support are some of the link roads to the location.

"And most importantly, the crossing should be a tunnel and not a bridge.

"I am very keen we don't look at the third Thames crossing in isolation, but look at it from Dover Docks to the crossings and the various enhancements that need to be made to the road infrastructure."

Gravesham Borough council leaders have, unsurprisingly, fought against the plans.

In the original proposals put forward by the DfT, Option C connected the M2 in Kent with the A13 in Essex.

But KCC has said any road connection should run further west, joining up with the A2 to minimise impact on the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

In the report, KCC claimed its road amendments would also protect a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), ancient woodlands and KCC's flagship country park.

The report said: "This western alignment would connect into the A2 between the east of Gravesend and Cobham junctions.

"The council's view is that overall, given the potential extent of the environmental impact of the DfT-proposed connection, this realigned connection would be preferable and is a feasible and deliverable alternative."

On closing the consultation period, the DfT said: "We have said we want to hear other suggestions. So we will listen to those and a decision will be made.

"That is where we are at the moment."

A decision is expected in the autumn.

BRIDGING THE GAP: Kent County Council would like to see a tunnel built instead of proposed bridge

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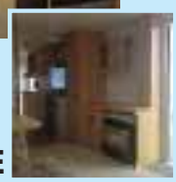

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ENVIRONMENT

ROW: Hermitage Quarry has clashed with the Woodland Trust over decision to extend into woodland

Firm promises greener future after go-ahead to dig up ancient woods

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A QUARRYING company at the centre of a man versus nature row has claimed the woodland it is set to controversially dig up will be replaced by a far greener habitat for the future.

Gallagher Aggregates, which operates Hermitage Quarry in Barming, near Maidstone, was given the nod by Secretary of State Eric Pickles to extend their ragstone quarry into nearby ancient woodland.

It brought to an end more than two years of wrangling between the firm and the Woodland Trust which opposed the destruction of the habitat.

Hermitage Quarry is set to plough through 80 acres of Oaken Wood, but Gallagher's chief executive Nick Yandle is convinced the habitat recreated after the dig will be of a better standard.

He said: "The essence is that there will be 23 years of quarrying and 15 phases. After each phase has been quarried, it will be filled in and native trees planted. And so the process will continue.

"On average, it works out about 18 months per phase, so by the time we finish, the first phase of woodland will have been in place for more than 20 years. So the amount of land that is un-wooded at any time is relatively small.

"There will also be the same space again replaced by trees. So the 80 acres of sweet chestnut coppice, which is not a native species, will be replaced by 160 acres of native species of trees.

"If you were around in 100 years time, you would see twice as much woodland of oaks and ashes and native trees as opposed to what is there now."

Mr Yandle stressed inspectors had not found the woodland to be of a "high grade".

He said: "The public inquiry – an evidence-based process – demonstrated that it is of low ecological value. What it will be replaced with will be a better habitat."

Despite being given the go-ahead last week, the quarry, which is the only ragstone dig site in Kent, isn't expected to continue into Oaken Wood for at least another year.

TARGETED: Oaken Wood's 80 acres

But Woodland Trust chief executive, Sue Holden, believes that Oaken Wood has become a landmark decision for all the wrong reasons.

She said: "This so-called 'greenest government ever' stated the new National Planning Policy Framework would give sufficient protection to irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland. It clearly does not – it seems no green space is safe.

"We are extremely concerned now that this outcome could define the level of protection given to ancient woods and indeed all irreplaceable habitats in all future planning decisions across England.

"With just two per cent ancient woodland cover remaining, we can not afford to lose any more.

"Ancient woodland is irreplaceable and, as such, no mitigation exists for its loss."

The Woodland Trust says the Oaken Wood decision is likely to threaten rare species including sweet chestnut coppice – a historically valuable crop – as well as a diverse range of plants and rare species, including bats, dormice and reptiles.

BUSINESS

Apprentice star visits

A RUNNER-up in last year's The Apprentice TV show is coming to Kent next weekend to find her very own local entrepreneur as she kick starts her own business plan.

Susan Ma, who came third in series seven of the popular BBC reality show, has now gone into business with Lord Sugar and is launching her Tropic Skin Care product range.

Next Saturday, July 27, she hosts a free event at the Hilton Maidstone Hotel from 4pm-7pm to find business partners to help expand.

REGENERATION

Airport plans on show

TWO months of consultations into the future of Rochester Airport get under way next week.

And it takes flight with a two-day public event in Chatham giving residents and businesses the chance to see the latest draft proposals which could create up to 1,000 jobs by creating a new science business park plus improvements to facilities at the airport.

The exhibition takes place at the Innovation Centre in Maidstone Road, on Monday to Tuesday - July 22-23.

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EVENT

Pictures: PHIL HOUGHTON

County show heralded a blazing success

Weekend of sunny weather sees Detling welcome more than 75,000 through gates for top event

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

KENT County Show bosses have thanked the heavens after a scorching weekend helped put their attendance figures back on track.

Organisers of the event, held from Friday to Sunday last weekend at Detling, said an estimated 75,000 people attended the annual showcase which celebrates the county's agricultural roots.

The Kent County Agricultural Society said the figures were some 20,000 up on last year, when heavy rain caused chaos.

Chairman of the show and the society, Kevin Attwood, said: "We have been overwhelmed with the public support and can only thank our stewards, exhibitors and trade stands for putting on a first-class show."

The sun-soaked event was just what the bank manager ordered after the 2012 event was beset by problems.

Heavy rain turned the car parks into quagmires and the gates had to be shut early, leaving thousands of ticket holders unable to access the site.

But organisers have yet to confirm whether this year's event made money, after the society was hit by losses of more than £250,000 last year.

Mr Attwood, who is due to stay as chairman for the event for three years, added: "While we are unable to control the weather, the sunshine certainly encourages significantly more visitors to attend.

"The team worked extremely hard all year, and while we planned for inclement weather the sunshine has been a welcome change."

With the forecast good in the days leading up to the event, ticket sales soared with more than 10,000 sold in just one 24-hour period.

In addition to the crowds, rural affairs minister Owen Patterson spoke to members of the farming community and listened to issues affecting food production in the county.

Olympic icon Dame Kelly Holmes also made a surprise visit, spending time in the Produced in Kent area talking to local producers.

She said: "The Kent County Show is a brilliant showcase for the whole county. In particular we have some wonderful local producers with great products. I am so pleased the weather was good – it makes me proud to come from Kent."

The county show posted its record figure in 2010, when around 80,000 people turned up.

■ **The dates for the 2014 Kent County Show have been set as the weekend of July 11-13.**

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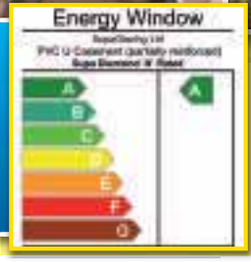

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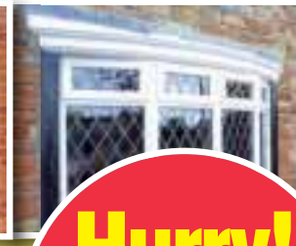

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HISTORY

Centenary walk remembers when thousands took to streets in bid to get the vote for women

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SMARTLY dressed and with determination on their faces, this is the moment Kent's suffragists marched the county's streets to fight for women's right to vote.

Somewhat overshadowed by the militant and thereby headline-grabbing suffragettes, much less is known about these peaceful protestors, but their dedication, particularly in Tunbridge Wells, saw them quietly making progress which would later assist in the historic moment in which women were given the same voting rights as men.

Forming part of the wider suffrage movement, the suffragists were found in both east and west Kent; in Tunbridge Wells, Ramsgate and Margate, and Rochester primarily.

Exactly 100 years ago, they joined the national pilgrimage to London – organised by the non-militant National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) – in the fight to get women the vote.

So while the militant protestors rabble raised, chaining themselves to railings and setting fire to mailboxes, the suffragists marched peacefully through our county's streets, stopping on July 21, 1913, for a meeting at Victoria Hall in Southborough to rally the troops.

Dr Anne Logan, senior lecturer in social history at the University of Kent, and author on websites Writing Women's History and Women's History Kent, said Tunbridge Wells was the scene of a vibrant women's suffrage movement.

"Because of their tactics, the suffragettes are more widely known. It made the cause more controversial and it therefore moved up the agenda politically," she said.

To mark the centenary of the pilgrimage, a series of walks are being organised around the country, with the Kent route beginning in Ashford.

Organised by Lucy-Anne Holmes and Gavin Blowman, Walk for Women will take place over the summer, with the county's on July 27 starting in Chilham at 10am and covering 12 miles.

Mr Blowman told KoS the feedback had been very positive.

"Sometimes with things like this, you'll always find an opposing opinion, but everyone is on board."

■ **For more information and to take part, see www.walkforwomen.co.uk.**

Picture: WRITING WOMEN'S HISTORY WEBSITE AND WOMEN'S HISTORY KENT

A UNITED FRONT: Suffragists in Tunbridge Wells in July 1913

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HOUSING

Why the soaring cost of house rent is making parts of the county 'unaffordable'

By Chris Murphy
editorial@archant.co.uk

FINDING affordable housing in Kent is now all but impossible, according to a worrying new report.

If you are a low or even middle-income couple with one child looking for a two-bed home, using the social renting market is now the only option.

That's according to a major investigation by campaign group, the Resolution Foundation.

Its complex calculations were slammed by the Government as groundless, because they don't take into account the availability of housing benefits.

However, the group says with some benefits drying up thanks to government budget cuts, its findings are more than valid.

Looking at the national picture, those in the south of England come off worst.

Giselle Cory, senior analyst at the Resolution Foundation and joint author of the report, said: "Our analysis shows that a low-income, young family cannot afford to rent even a modest two-bed home in almost half of Kent – that's six out of 13 local authority areas."

The six authorities concerned are Canterbury, Dartford, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

She added: "Other parts of the county are close to being unaffordable for them.

"Unaffordable housing costs may mean families in Kent have to cut back their spending in other areas to meet the costs of a basic but decent home.

"Four-fifths of the south east is unaffordable to a low-income family who rent their home.

"This is especially concerning as more and more households are finding private rental is their only housing option."

The Home Truths report identifies local authorities that are 'affordable' for a couple with a child requiring a two-bedroom property on a household income of £22,000 a year.

The group defines affordable as a rent that is no more than 35 per cent of net household income.

Rents are now so high, they are beyond the income scope of Britain's families in one third of the country.

Sevenoaks is Kent's most expensive area with the hypothetical family needing to spend 43 per cent of their income on £800 rent.

It is just fractionally ahead of Tunbridge Wells.

Thanet is just ahead of Dover and Shepway as the county's cheapest place to live, with 27 per cent of the income spent on £500 rent. Social rents are cheaper all round, but a startling low availability rules that out for most people.

Sevenoaks council defended its position, blaming its geography.

A spokesman said: "Property prices in the Sevenoaks district are amongst the highest outside of London and consequently private rents tend to be higher than average and, as the district is 93 per cent green belt, it's a challenge to secure new land for housing.

"Approximately 15 per cent of the district's housing stock is made up of affordable housing and we are working hard to increase this provision.

"Our local planning policies require developers to provide a proportion of affordable homes in new schemes, or for smaller developments to make a financial contribution towards local affordable housing.

"We work closely with all our local housing associations to provide more affordable homes and work with private landlords to bring empty homes back into use. These homes tend to provide more affordable rents."

PROPORTION OF NET INCOME SPENT ON HOUSING COSTS

Ashford
34 per cent (own with mortgage)
34 per cent (private rent)
21 per cent (social rent)

Canterbury
41 per cent
38 per cent
21 per cent

Dartford
38 per cent
39 per cent
22 per cent

Dover
27 per cent
28 per cent
19 per cent

Gravesham
34 per cent
35 per cent
21 per cent

Maidstone
36 per cent
37 per cent
19 per cent

Medway
30 per cent
33 per cent
21 per cent

Sevenoaks
48 per cent
43 per cent
22 per cent

Shepway
33 per cent
30 per cent
20 per cent

Swale
31 per cent
33 per cent
20 per cent

Thanet
30 per cent
27 per cent
20 per cent

Tonbridge/Malling
43 per cent
41 per cent
23 per cent

Tunbridge Wells
48 per cent
42 per cent
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Sex attacker, 21, blames legal high

A 21-year-old has admitted sexually assaulting a woman, claiming he was under the influence of a legal high.

Arjun Sehgal, of Lamorna Street, had to be dragged off the woman by a member of the public in July last year, who then held him until police arrived and arrested him. He will be sentenced in September.

HORTICULTURE

LIFE'S A BEACH: Complex creation on the seafront home in Camber, designed by Cranbrook expert. Photo: Marcus Harpur

Remarkable design sows the seed for chance of a top national award

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

ONE of the county's top green-fingered experts has seen one of her most ambitious projects reach the final of a prestigious national competition.

Jo Thompson, from Cranbrook, is no stranger to receiving plaudits, following high-profile success at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in recent years.

But now a garden she created on the shifting sands of Camber, just over the East Sussex border, has been put forward for the prestigious Society of Garden Designers 2013 Awards.

Featuring a sunken fire pit and man-made sand dunes, the Sea Gem was created by Mrs Thompson after the garden owner's complex brief asked for a design in-keeping with the public beach front, provided shelter from harsh salty winds and maintained the area's Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status.

The 45-year-old said: "I worked with the owner and the architect from scratch to create an area around the house that worked with it; that created some privacy from the beach, but without blocking the view.

"From the start, this garden was all about the elements; the strong, salty winds, its constant state of flux and finding plants that will take hold and not blow away. I am delighted with the garden though and this result."

And the Kent designer has stayed true to her county roots by using rope from Chatham's dockyard to provide an appropriate nautical boundary fence.

Sea Gem has been narrowed down from 95 entries with the winners announced in January.

However, being so in-demand has meant Mrs Thompson will not be at Chelsea next year.

She told KoS: "I have made the decision not to do Chelsea in 2014, as we are very busy and we have some projects that will take us into next year so physically can't do both."

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Landlord fined for failure to tidy back garden

A PROPERTY landlord from Chatham will have to pay out more than £1,000 after failing to clear up a rubbish strewn garden.

Zubair Khan, registered owner of a house in Palmerston Road, was handed an £800 fine, and told to pay £430 costs after the back garden of the property was found in a poor state during a visit by environmental enforcement officers.

Castle's classical concert attracts a record audience

ORGANISERS of a classical concert in the grounds of Leeds Castle say they had record crowds as the good weather prompted a flurry of sales on the day.

Last Saturday's event saw more than 14,000 attend to witness performances from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Military Wives' Choir, plus a fly-past by a Spitfire and an aerobatic display.

A spokesman for the organisers, Heritage Events, said: "We have been absolutely thrilled at the level of interest in the show this year and the atmosphere was truly amazing."

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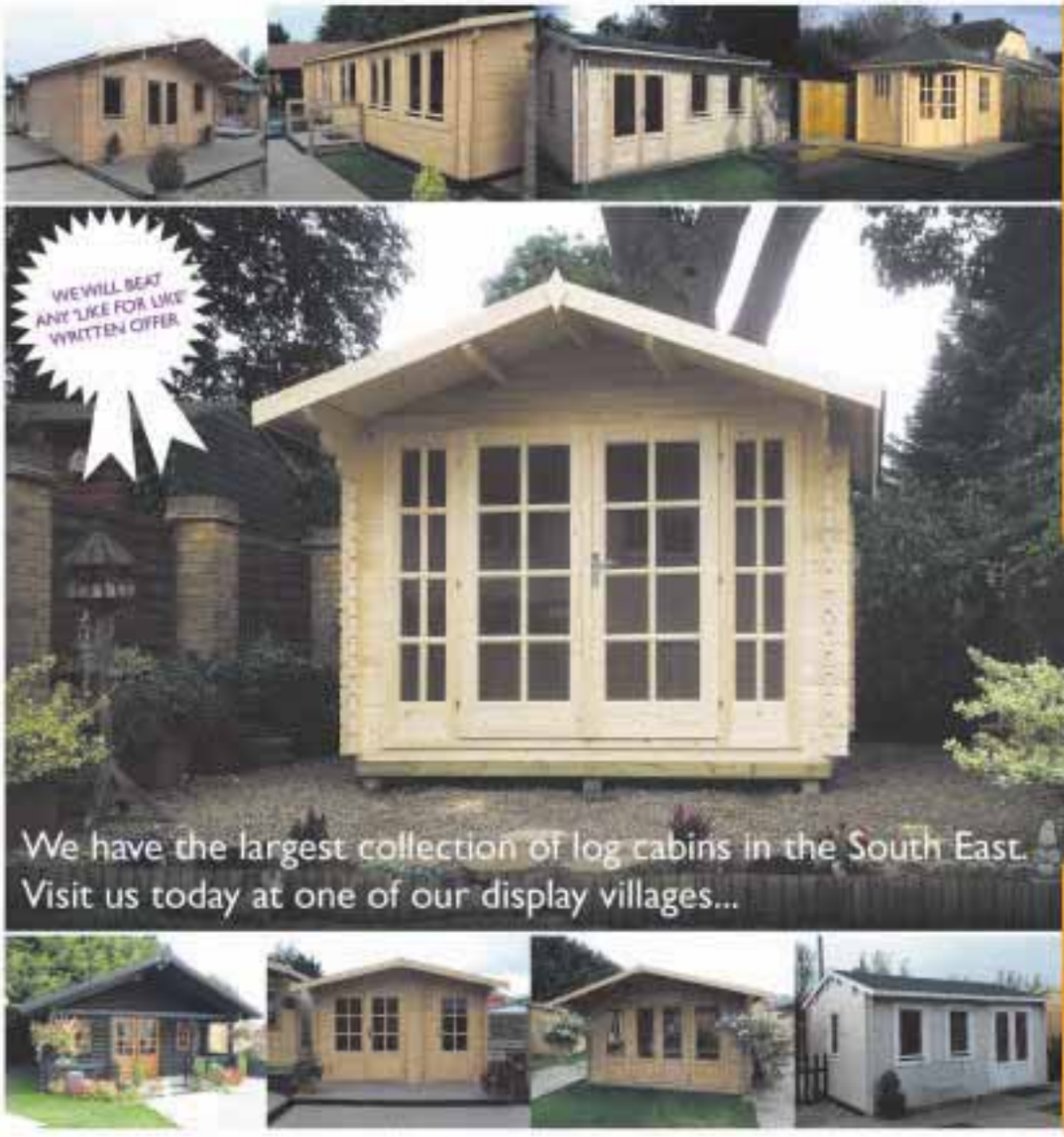

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News

FESTIVAL

Sponsorship shortfall behind music festival's cancellation

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

ONE of the county's most popular annual live music events has been forced to pull the plug on this year's event after facing a sponsorship shortfall.

The Local and Live music festival has taken place in and around Tunbridge Wells' historic Pantiles for the past seven years.

A popular showcase for local musicians, performed in a host of venues, the four-day event regularly attracts crowds of 20,000.

But just a month before the 2013 festival was due to take place – over the August bank holiday – organisers have been forced to put the event on hold.

They say with no sponsorship it left a £20,000 shortfall which forced them to cancel the 100 acts booked.

However, they insist it will return in 2014.

Organiser and local singer-songwriter Paul Dunton said: "At the moment we just haven't got the funding in place to pay for costs.

"The sponsorship has not come forward as it has in the previous years.

"Normally by this point we have secured a major backer.

"Although it is a free event it is professionally run, which costs money.

"In terms of grants applications and sponsorship we are getting the same reaction; there's not the disposable revenue to invest in a music festival with budgets being cut. In a recession the first thing that happens is sponsorship and grants will get chopped from the financial menu.

NO GO: Local and Live is cancelled for 2013

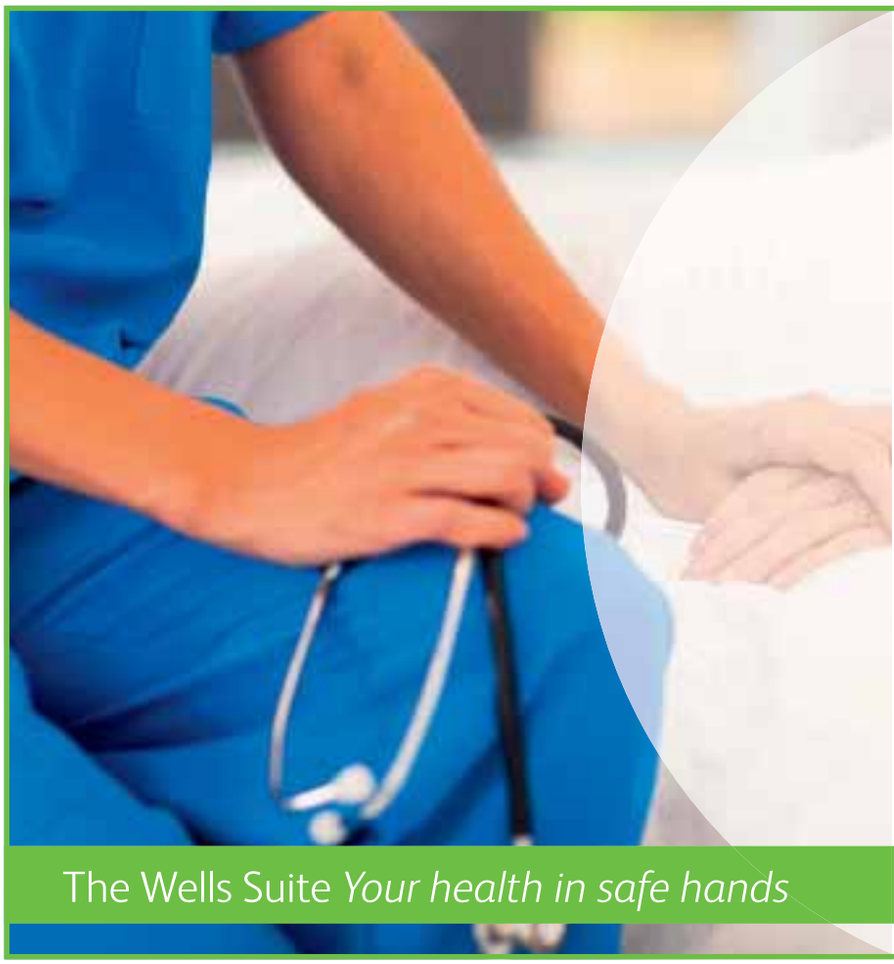
"We may get saved at the eleventh hour. But we would still have to get the licences and the insurance sorted out.

"To do that just with just four weeks notice, along with everything else, may not be logistically possible.

"But this doesn't mean it's the end for Local and Live. We are detemined to return in 2014."

Anyone wishing to sponsor the event should email Mr Dunton on paul@pauldunton.co.uk.

For more information visit www.localandlive.org.



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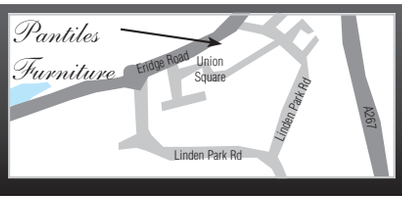

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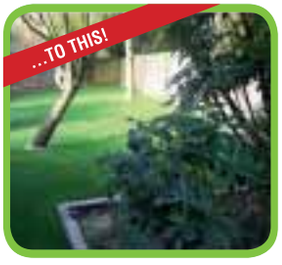

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

FIND: Benjamin Harrison (inset) and Flinders Petrie were important in discoveries at Coldrum Stones

County's 'Stonehenge' still a best-kept secret

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

THEY are described as Kent's Stonehenge and believed to be the earliest prehistoric monuments surviving in Britain, but the Coldrum Longbarrow remains one of the county's best-kept secrets.

Sited in Trottiscliffe, just west of West Malling, Coldrum Longbarrow – or the Coldrum Stones – is believed to have been built around 4,000 BC and is the best-preserved of the group of early Neolithic structures near Maidstone known as the Medway Megaliths.

They are believed to be the earliest prehistoric monuments surviving in Britain.

Although almost 1,000 years older than Stonehenge, Coldrum was originally described as "a miniature Stonehenge", as it was wrongly assumed its stones had originally been set out in a circle.

It was later realised the Coldrum stones marked a rectangular mound covering a communal grave.

However, Coldrum and Stonehenge have one thing in common; their builders used massive sarsen sandstone boulders, found in many places between Wiltshire and Kent.

The first prehistoric finds at Coldrum were pot fragments, unearthed in 1856.

Eight years later, Kent Archaeological Society members Benjamin Harrison and Flinders Petrie returned to the site to continue the excavation.

Harrison was born in Ightham in 1837 and spent his life searching for evidence of Kent's early inhabitants after an inspirational visit to one of the Medway Megaliths, Kit's Coty, while a pupil at the British School at Platt, near Sevenoaks.

His compatriot Petrie was born in 1853 in Charlton and was an eminent Egyptologist and archaeologist whose many achievements included introducing a numbering sequence for Stonehenge's stones that is still used today.

Together the pair measured and sketched Coldrum, paving the way for a more ambitious investigation to follow in 1910, by Francis James Bennett of West Malling, a fellow of the Geological Society of London.

Now a series of 100-year-old pictures of the stones have finally been committed to a digital format to be enjoyed by future generations.

Previously held on glass plate negatives, they record the 1910 excavation of the structure and the human bones that were unearthed at the site.

Denis Anstey, head of IT for the Kent Archaeological Society, said: "The pictures are among thousands of images of Kent dating from the early 18th century to the late 20th century that the KAS has collected since it was founded in 1857.

"Some of them are now very delicate and they will inevitably continue to deteriorate with time, so it is very important we keep them in digital format. This will enable us to offer the images to local historians, researchers and publishers long after the originals become too fragile to copy."

The more in-depth dig turned up a far more interesting series of finds with a human skull containing teeth recovered.

"No sooner had I put my fork in,' wrote Bennett, "than I at once turned up some human bones, under only a few inches of soil."

Bennett was joined by Edwin W Filkins, an architect who lived at Claphall, Gravesend, and together they retrieved five skulls and bones from an estimated 22 adults and children.

The samples were handed over to Sir Arthur Keith, anatomist and anthropologist of the Royal College of Surgeons, while others were donated to Maidstone Museum.

In 1913, Bennett published his report and photographs to the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

Thirteen year later on July 10, 1926, the National Trust bought Coldrum Longbarrow and dedicated it to the memory of Ben Harrison, its first archaeologist and historian.

But the Coldrum fascination doesn't stop there.

Recent radiocarbon dating at Cardiff University of some of Coldrum's bones has shown they are several hundred years older than was originally thought and are possibly among the earliest remains of Neolithic people ever found in Britain.

Because of this new discovery, further fieldwork is planned at Coldrum this summer as part of the Medway Valley Prehistoric Landscapes Project, directed by Dr Paul Garwood, lecturer in Prehistory at the University of Birmingham.

for more pictures and news go to www.kentnews.co.uk

OPINION

This is what's called summer

Editor **Chris Britcher** wonders why after 12 non-stop months of rain and gloom, we're now all bleating on about it being too hot...

WE ARE, it would appear, a nation with an extremely short memory.

Wind back to just last month and we were hurtling into deepest summer with the weather a constant, energy-zapping, mood-deflating grey.

If it wasn't overcast it was raining, and if it wasn't raining the temperatures were plunging into single figures.

We knew the sun existed – the gloomy light confirmed that – but it appeared it had given up shedding any of its warmth on us in the UK.

But then, as God would say, there was light.

As Wimbledon began, the sun decided to get his proverbial hat on and come out to play. And he enjoyed it so much he decided to stay for a few weeks.

So here we are, nearly a month later and the weather remains very pleasant.

In short, summer has arrived and the climate is now being what it should be in summer – namely warm and sunny.

Yet, somehow, we have gone from a nation whose favourite past-time was bemoaning the chill and the wet and the lack of a summer (again) to being a nation apparently in desperate need for cloud cover.

What has happened to us?

There was a phone-in on a local radio station this week which posed the question 'have we had enough of the hot weather?'.

Have we had enough? What, of summer lasting longer than three days? Of there not being puddles on the ground all the time? Of having to wear jumpers in June?

You'd think the county had been swept by heat never previously experienced by man; that skies were filled with the thick fug of smoke as the countryside erupted into flames under the sun's relentless rays; that the dead bodies of dogs and old people left in cars without a window open line our pavements and gutters.

Folks, it has been warm for a few weeks – let's not get carried away here. Let's not fulfil the international stereotype of a British person as one who is only truly happy while experiencing the misery of rain and inclement weather. We're better than that.

Doesn't anyone remember how much we all hated the gloomy weather? How much we bleated on non-stop about it, day in, day out?

How waking up to sunshine can put a spring in our step and a smile on our faces?

Ask most people and surely the perfect year consists of a winter of deep snow, a spring of chilly mornings and bright sunshine with April showers, followed by a scorching summer and a chilly autumn.

> **The bodies of dead dogs and OAPs left in cars with no open windows do not litter our streets**

It's the way the seasons should be, yet it appears we have had the wool pulled over our collective eyes by a period of gloomy weather.

Somehow 12 months of rain and cloud has changed our approach to what we consider a suitable climate.

Surely we don't want to live in perpetual rain and wind?

Surely having a few months to top up Vitamin D levels and turn our skins from albino white to cooked lobster red is something to be welcomed?

After all, if we keep moaning about it the sun will soon get to hear about it – and you know what a fickle friend he can be at the best of times.

So let's not complain about the heat. Let's not moan that it's unbearable. It isn't, is it, really? It's warm and nice, and, as we all know, it's not going to last forever.

KOS COMMENT

Let us hope airport plans fly away again

THE independent commission looking into the issue of south east airport capacity retired on Friday to consider its findings – and the good news is that it seems interest in a Thames Estuary airport has nose-dived.

The smart money now must surely be on expansion of the nation's two primary key airports – Gatwick and Heathrow. It is, surely, the commonsense and economically most sensible option.

Let us not be in any doubt.

While Kent needs to attract inward investment and development, a huge airport which would have paved over sections of the county and tarnished our reputation as the Garden of England, was never, ever, it.

Channel swim tragedy

WHEN Susan Taylor set off from Dover last Sunday to raise thousands for charity, no-one could have imagined the outcome.

Her tragic death and the enormous outpouring of generosity from those who never knew her, will ensure her efforts are never forgotten.

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Bedgebury Pinetum by Paul Spinks of Borden

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Scapegoating drink drivers

IN THE opinion piece by MP Rehman Chishti (KoS, July 7), he is demanding tougher sentences for drink drivers, but failed to give the whole facts, misleadingly suggesting drivers can only receive six months in prison.

Firstly, those just over the limit will get a minimum driving ban of 12 months, which might not sound bad if you live close to your place of work or in a town with good public transport.

But many of us do not, so the loss of a job could mean failure to meet mortgage payments and financial destruction for your family.

Then there is a three-year ban if a second offence occurs within 10 years and, of course, there are severe fines and higher insurance costs or even insurance refusal. It can also create visa problems to visit other countries.

Because magistrates are not allowed any discretion, which is usually the norm, even those misjudging the 'morning-after' effects get sentenced for the smallest of margins over the limit.

Causing death because you have been drinking can lead to unlimited fines and up to 14 years in prison.

I would emphasis here that being over the drink-drive limit seems enough to put all the blame on the driver, when in fact, there may be little evidence the driver was to blame. After all, drinking does not make you immune from making the same silly mistakes as sober drivers.

As motoring justice gets ever more nearer to 'rubber-stamp' revenue collecting, drivers will lose the right to a secondary fail-safe blood/urine test and a chance of a court appearance, where defending lawyers have the chance to meet the prosecution and witnesses face-to-face.

Now many would argue that you should not drink at all, but most do not want to live some monastic lifestyle, and while Mr Chishti's religion bans any form of alcohol, us non-Muslims have been drinking for a couple of millennium.

Nobody is supporting somebody staggering out of the pub and into a car, but we already have tough drink driving laws, and it would seem just another case of motorists being an easy target for those wishing to further their career by encouraging evermore draconian punishments.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

Winners take it all, David

DAVID Cameron was quoted (KoS, July 7) as hailing the opening of the world's largest offshore wind farm as "a huge win" for the county.

But probably not such a 'big win' as it was for DONG Energy (Danish owned), E.ON (German owned) and Morsar (based in Abu Dhabi).

Phil Granger, West Malling

Protect, but still serve us

DOES Protect Kent support any form of development in the county?

We are a modern society living in an area which remains predominantly countryside, yet any sign of 'progress' is almost certainly shot down by this vocal organisation.

You can almost guarantee any housing development, new transport link, or, in fact, anything which involves building, will be rejected by Protect Kent. Do they not realise their credibility is blown apart as a result?

Of course we must monitor developments carefully, but we must also not look to oppose for opposition sake.

If we knew Protect Kent would stand up only for the most worthwhile of causes, then their involvement in campaigns would carry far more punch.

As it is, if a bulldozer looms on the horizon, then Protect Kent – however worthwhile the development – is swift to jump on the opposition bandwagon.

G Hawley, Sevenoaks

Switched off to modern needs

THE power companies are taking the public for a ride.

On the hottest day of the year we get nearly nine hours of power cuts in south east Kent.

I was told by my provider they were bringing generators down to use while the problem was sorted, but these got stuck in traffic on the M2.

Why are there no generators in the area?

In this day and age this sort of thing shouldn't happen.

Adrian Ottley, via email

Getting cross over crossing

ON Friday, July 12, at about 5pm, I queued in my car for more than an hour to cover the six miles leading up to the Dartford Crossing.

Give us a new tunnel or bridge, please. We've paid for it already.

BJ Fettes, via email

Know what you're eating

YOUR readers may be amused to know that in a new survey by the RSPCA's Freedom Food, nearly one in 10 people in the south east said they had tasted 'chicken trotters' and some had even tried 'pigs' wings'.

Of course this is nonsense, but it does highlight a more serious issue.

The majority of our farm animals are kept in conditions which don't strive to give them a good life. If people knew more about what they were eating and the lives of animals that produce their food, I think they would care more about how those animals are reared.

That's why during this week, which is Farm Animal Week, Freedom Food is asking people to find out more about the amazing lives of farm animals and swap at least one item in their shopping basket for a higher welfare label such as Freedom Food. Products labelled Freedom Food mean they have come from a farm monitored by the RSPCA.

It's simple really; the more people choose these labels the more farmers will be encouraged to adopt higher welfare standards.

Dr Marc Cooper, RSPCA

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AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315**

SUE 65, slim, animal lover, 5ft, blonde, likes socialising, meals out, theatre, countryside, happy go lucky, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405767**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

LISA blonde, blue eyes, looking for male, 42-54 for fun and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404877**

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093**

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52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion, 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTM lady. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

GEORGINA widow, WLTM gent, 60-80 with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

SHAY 39 looking for fun loving male to brighten up my world! There must be someone out there prepared to take on a feisty attractive professional with OHAC, money in the bank and a great body! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403341**

JACQUELINE widow, 82, easy-going, not ugly or neurotic, good listener, caring, loyal, seeks gent, 60-80 for conversation, company and outings. Sevenoaks, car driver. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403397**

SHARON 37yr old size 10 attractive feminine blonde, divorced with OHAC, seeks nice male who like me is fed up with being on their own. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403351**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

Men Seeking

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Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

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(T&C's below)

DEREK Croydon area, 52, self employed, seeks female for 1-2-1 relationship, likes meals out, places of interest, holidays. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406559**

OUTGOING professional, fun loving, entertaining male, seeking warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405633**

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717**

CANTERBURY sign language interpreter 58, 5ft 10ins, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

MIKE 39, 6ft 7ins, large build, blue eyes, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406321**

TALL friendly, light hearted, single, 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR with mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405557**

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whitstable. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439**

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S, likes classic cars, looking to meet nice lady for meals out, days out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406349**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, fun loving, happy go lucky, honest, seeks special lady for fun and to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406333**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221**

MEDWAY male, 60's, solvent, seeks attractive lady, 55-65, GSOH to wine, dine and share the good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405429**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941**

ACTIVE 60's semi-retired man, OHAC, GSOH, enjoys theatre, dancing, singing, amateur dramatics, coast, gardening etc., WLTM n/s female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404671**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085**

CHRIS from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n roll, WLTM N/S female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

KEVIN 50 6ft average build, kind, caring, GSOH, black hair, hazel eyes, various interests, seeks female 35-55 for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405087**

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well-built female for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729**

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641**

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530**

Gay Seeking

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Go online - www.localgay-date.co.uk

PETER looking for male, 30-60 for casual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406049**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male of similar age for occasional meetings and mutual interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405863**

BI guy, CD, 57, OHAC, seeking similar for mutual fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404907**

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

BI male, senior, clean-shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402393**

DAVID 66, retired, fit, looking for man, 50-75 for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402249**

STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male, any age for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401915**

BI male, seeking easygoing bi male/CD, 18-55 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401891**

Friendship

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

YVONNE 60, seeks male/female friends for chats, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397641**

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Crisis over: Ed gets his life in some perspective

He is one of the UK's top comics but, as **Greg Miles** discovers, one milestone had a profound effect on Irishman Ed Byrne

THERE are no fast cars or luxury yachts but maybe a nice pair of walking boots for comedian Ed Byrne, who considered his midlife crisis to have arrived a decade earlier than for most.

The Irishman, who comes to Tunbridge Wells with his new show in October, is now into his 40s, but far from the meltdown sometimes associated with the ageing milestone he is embracing the outdoors and everything that life has to offer.

The regular guest on BBC's Mock The Week and Live At The Apollo was in fact more frightened of approaching his 30s.

"That's when I did the whole going out with a girl nine years younger than me," said the father of two.

"For me there was trepidation about hitting 30. At 40 I was more resigned to it. I had a sports car for a little while before we had kids.

"After my first child came along, I got rid of it. It's not a midlife thing, but more of a middle-age thing."

The 41-year-old took up comedy after quitting university, where he was studying horticulture, and has since gone on to sell out three UK tours and perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which is where he met his wife Claire Walker in 2003.

"I imagine if I'd become a gardener I would have my own television programme – instead I went into comedy," he said.

"Sometimes – when you watch all the gardening and cooking programmes – I think I should have got myself a trade. That's how you get on telly.

"I'm quite into my outdoorsy stuff, hill-walking and the like. I do an article every other month for a magazine about it. Once I give up being on the road, it would be nice to move across into that programming."

While his passion at the moment is comedy, it is not something that always comes easily.

"I do feel like it's going to continue," he said. "I go in fits and starts. When you're at that blank-page stage, you think you've got to be at Edinburgh with a new hour of material and you've only got five minutes' worth, you think I've got to get out of this game, I can't keep doing this.

"But then it comes round and Edinburgh is a few weeks away and you've got the new show and you look forward to doing it. It then expands to the point you can take it on tour.

'The funny thing about being a comedian is that you get leeway from people – they expect you to act up and you can get away with it'

"I'm just looking forward to getting out and telling it."

His year didn't get off to the greatest of starts as he had to have a hernia operation, but it is those kind of experiences that fuel his creativity.

"I have to say it does help, especially when you have a natural desire to muck about and to look at what people are saying and find funny things in it.

"It's handy that things happen. You're aware as things are happening that you're influencing them to make them funnier.

"The other funny thing about being a comedian is that you get leeway with people – they expect you to act up and you can get away with it.

"It's liberating, but other people think they can say what they like.

"I remember I went to Australia for a festival and went to an opticians when I was there. As soon as I mentioned I was a comedian he kept making Irish jokes at me, saying stuff like 'You will notice there's a clever thing on the hinge here on the glasses – well, you probably didn't notice because you're Irish'.

"It wasn't even funny."

He has, though, had a change of heart when it comes to what the public think.

In 2011, he quit Twitter but is now back on the social-networking site, ignoring anyone intent on being a nuisance.

"I didn't want to read what anyone said and I thought I'm only quitting Twitter because someone will say something horrible, but then they win."

■ **Ed Byrne and his show Roaring Forties will be at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday, October 10. Tickets are priced at £22.50; phone 01892 530613 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

weekend

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City's annual festival ticks right box ... whatever your artistic persuasion

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A FEAST of arts and music awaits audiences at the 30th Canterbury Festival this autumn.

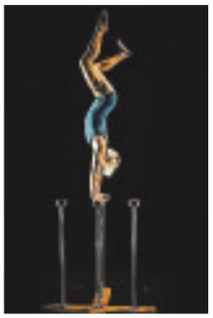
Running from Saturday, October 19, until Saturday, November 2, it features a variety of acts including the Tallis Scholars in Canterbury Cathedral, The Faulty Towers Dining Experience at ABode and folk legends Oysterband at The Marlowe Theatre, to name a few.

The festival is now in its 30th year in its current format – although it began in 1920 – and will be using the new Colyer-Fergusson Hall at the University of Kent for three events.

The hall will host a unique concert by pianist Mikhail Rudy on the works of Kandinsky's Pictures At An Exhibition and Stravinksky's Petrushka. There is also a double bill from the Nova Music Opera, who will be presenting a new opera by Sally Beamish titled Hagar In The Wilderness and Benjamin Britten's Curlew River.

The city's King's School will again act as a host venue this year, with Brother Wolf set for St Mary's Hall studio theatre to perform their new show A Christmas Carol as told by Jacob Marley.

Iconic soprano Lesley Garrett takes to the stage with clarinettist Emma Johnson for a programme of traditional and contemporary songs at the Shirley Hall, where Australian comedian Adam Hills will also perform his stand-up.



VARIED: The Canterbury Festival will host acts including Casus, Lesley Garrett and comic Adam Hills

A special addition to this year's festival is the inclusion of a Spiegeltent for two weeks. A Spiegeltent is a decorative 1920s travelling dance hall hosting theatre, music and cabaret.

Another travelling art form to appear is Australian circus company Casus, presenting its new show Knee Deep, which promises breathtaking displays of skill.

There is plenty to keep younger audiences entertained, with a new programme of family-friendly shows throughout the second week of the festival taking place daily at 2pm.

Children's scriptwriter Andrew Barnett Jones will be using techniques and ideas from his audience to create entertaining stories in his show The Story Game.

There is a party for under-sevens at Baby Loves Disco and two shows with the Squashbox Theatre combining puppetry, cabaret, music and natural history.

Those events will take place in the Spiegeltent, which will be at the home of Kent County Cricket Club at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence.

For more information and to view the full p rogramme, visit www.canterburyfestival.co.uk or phone 01227 787787.

REALLY GOT US: Kast off Kinks coming to Kent

Kinks members back to re-create classic sounds from the 60s

THREE former members of 60s legends The Kinks will be performing all the band's big hits in Sevenoaks in September.

Original members Mick Avory, Ian Gibbons and John Dalton will be joined by Dave Clark as the Kast off Kinks at the town's Stag theatre on Saturday, September 14.

Clark will be covering on guitar and lead vocal in place of the legendary Davies brothers, delivering the classics such as You Really Got Me, Sunny Afternoon, Waterloo Sunset and All Day And All of the Night.

Clark has previously worked with The Beach Boys and Noel Redding Band.

Tickets (£17 for seats and £15 standing) are available from www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk or by phoning 01732 450175.

Artist grabs her opportunity after brush with the internet opens up a world of interest

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

AN ARTIST from Hawkhurst is making the most of the opportunities the internet presents, selling more than £10,000 worth of her work in a matter of months.

Sandy Dooley previously stuck to traditional art galleries and exhibitions of her work, which depicts rural landscapes in acrylic.

But in March the 47-year-old got in touch with www.artfinder.com and has been reaping the rewards by making more in two months than the average artist makes in a year.

"It's all about the internet – I realised that last year," she said.

"I emailed them [artfinder] earlier this year and asked if they might be interested in having a look at some of my paintings, and they decided to put me on their site.

"It's been a huge success – just great."

Artfinder is a website that hosts works and looks to 'dissolve' the physical boundaries between artists and collectors, with purchases being made directly, meaning that artists receive a greater commission.

Originally from Teddington in Middlesex, Mrs Dooley moved to The Netherlands because of her husband's work and then relocated to Kent, where she started painting as a hobby in 2008.

She said: "I moved to Holland, got married and had children. I couldn't go back to work but carried on various different art things. I made greetings cards and artistic paper-mache bowls.

"It's been lovely being a parent, but now the children are older I have decided to get back into art.

"It's the same for lots of woman – you have a fractured career, you want to be with your family. It's hard.

"Some people combine it brilliantly, but I'm not one of those. Working in a creative field, it is something you can pick up again, though.

"I just love where I live, in a rural area. It is really beautiful.

"There is a big field behind where I live and I can go on a lot of walks."

■ **For more information and to see Sandy's work, visit www.artfinder.com.**

CANVAS OPINION: Sandy returned to painting when her children grew up and is reaping the rewards after showcasing her work online

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YOUR WEEKEND

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Dani takes Rocky road

TRACY Beaker star Dani Harmer is to feature in the 40th-anniversary tour of the Rocky Horror Show at Canterbury's Marlowe theatre.

Playing Janet, Harmer will appear alongside Ben Forster, who takes on the role of Brad. Forster won the ITV1 series Superstar and went on to lead in Jesus Christ Superstar.

Richard O'Brien's production first appeared at London's Royal Court Theatre in June 1973 and has since been around the world, playing in more than 30 countries.

The Rocky Horror Show is at The Marlowe from Monday to Saturday, August 12-17. Performance times are 7.30pm from Monday to Thursday and 5.30pm and 8.30pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets, priced from £15 to £36.50, are available from the box office on 01227 787787 or at www.marlowetheatre.com.

BGT star's lip service

PANTO fans in Chatham will be treated to an appearance from Britain's Got Talent finalist and ventriloquist Steve Hewlitt and his character Arthur Lager.

The 38-year-old, who won a place in the final via the wild-card vote, will play Herman the Henchman in this year's panto Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, with Arthur as his sidekick.

Producer Paul Hendy said: "We're absolutely thrilled to have Steve on board. I have wanted to work with him for a long time."

Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs runs from Thursday, December 12, to Sunday, January 5.

For further details and tickets, visit www.medwayticketslive.co.uk or phone 01634 338338.

Graduate given a kick in the right direction on new video

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A FILM-PRODUCTION graduate is being given an insight into his potential career after winning a work-experience slot on a music video for pop duo Rizzle Kicks.

Joshua Reeves, from Hextable, near Swanley, was selected for the role of producer for the video accompanying Rizzle Kicks' next single Lost Generations.

It came about as the band decided to offer 16- to 24-year-olds the chance to work on their video through GoThinkBig, a work-experience initiative launched by O2 and Bauer Media.

The 21-year-old, who recently graduated from the University of Derby with a 1st in film production, is no stranger to film sets, having carried out similar roles on Gulliver's Travels featuring Hollywood star Jack Black and a film to be released about artist William Turner.

Joshua said: "I have been shadowing the producer, helping him out. It's been really informative.

"I'm not sure what I expected, really. I have been a production runner on a couple of feature films and I had an idea about the process of the whole thing, and I've made a few music videos of my own – but I haven't been on a professional one."

Work experience is a valuable asset for younger people trying to find employment, a view with which Joshua agrees wholeheartedly. He said: "It can be difficult, but it's about being in the right place at the right time. It's about having the confidence to go and speak to people, and nine times out of 10 they are nice enough."

CLICKED: Joshua, below, has been learning the tricks of the trade on Rizzle Kicks' new video

The video is being directed by Jamie Thraves, who has worked with bands such as Radiohead and Coldplay, and is being made with the help of 150 young people.

It will premiere on Friday, July 26, and Rizzle Kicks' new album Roaring 20s will be released on Monday, September 2.

FAB FOUR

The White Hart, Newenden
Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28
Website: www.greatcountrypubs.com/thewhitehart

Beer festival: The White Hart's annual beer and music festival will have plenty of real ales to enjoy and a garden filled with music from 16 local musicians and bands. Entry is free.

Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Saturday, July 27
Phone: 01303 277175
Email: dwoodland05@aol.com

Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra: A must-see event! The MYJO won the BBC Big Band Award for eight consecutive years and is in the top echelon of big bands, youth or otherwise! Tickets £10.

Victoria Gardens, Broadstairs
Saturday and Sunday, July 20-21, 10am-5pm
Phone: 01843 869839

Broadstairs Victoria Weekend: Victoria Gardens will be filled with stalls, entertainment, music from the bandstand and vintage cars. Opened by the Mayor of Broadstairs at 10.45am Saturday.

Royal Esplanade, Ramsgate
Sunday, July 21, midday to 6pm
Phone: 07796 041284
Website: www.ramsgatecarnival.co.uk

Ramsgate Carnival: The streets of Ramsgate will be coming alive for the annual carnival, the procession leaving Government Acre at 4pm. Enjoy music, a market and a whole heap of food!

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Forager Leon goes wild and free as he spices up the Lounge menu

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

WHEN you think of food at music festivals, more often than not your mind wanders to burgers, chips and hot dogs.

What you might not expect is the kind of food of which Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall would be proud, and it's at this point that vegetarian Leon Lewis comes in with his foraged cuisine.

The 61-year-old has been a regular on the festival circuit since 1980 and will be adding Kent's Lounge On The Farm to his 'festivalography' next weekend.

His menu includes wild mushrooms such as chicken of the woods and 'weeds' like nettles and fat hen, while samphire and wild garlic will be making an appearance in salads, curries and roasts.

The ingredients have not come straight off a shelf but have taken hours to pick at sites near his home. Although time is money, the haul is free.

Some ingredients are bought in, though, as 120kg of aubergines were needed for his last outing.

School played a big part in Leon's interest in becoming a vegetarian and then eventual career change from maths teacher to foodie.

Since he switched roles in 1980, he has written two books and become an expert forager, leading locals on food-finding missions from his home in Brentwood, Essex.

"I was a boarder at Brentwood School, where Griff Rhys Jones went, and the onslaught of three meals a day put me off meat for life," he said.

"I was very interested in health and regularly read Health For All magazine in the 1960s, which had articles about a vegetarian diet in it. I liked playing cricket and looked at my fat grandparents and thought I don't want to be like them."

Although he has enjoyed success at festivals such as Glastonbury down the years, Leon feels the public do not make enough of what is essentially free food available in the countryside.

"It was a very slow process to get to where I am now. Only in the last 10 years have I started finding out about certain mushrooms," he said.

"People are very interested to come along on the walks that I do, but in terms of seeing people out there with buckets picking things, you just don't see it."

■ **Lounge On The Farm takes place from Friday to Sunday, July 26-28. For more information and to book tickets, visit www.loungeonthefarm.com.**

GRUB'S UP! Lounge On The Farm is next up for Leon Lewis and his vegetarian cuisine stall

STAR TURN: Anita Harris

Astor hosts the legend that is Anita Harris

ANITA Harris will be performing an intimate show of jazz and chat at Deal's Astor Community Theatre next month.

The 71-year-old show-biz legend will be at the theatre performing her favourite numbers with her jazz trio and recounting stories from her life in the industry.

Harris's career spans more than 50 years in the entertainment business after being spotted as a 15-year-old on a London ice-rink.

She was soon appearing in top shows in Las Vegas before returning to England to work with The Cliff Adams Singers while also appearing in two Carry On films and having success in the pop charts, pantomimes, a West End role in Cats and seven Royal Command Performances.

She will be at the Astor on Saturday, August 24. To book, phone 01304 370 220. Tickets are priced at £12 in advance or £14 on the door. Doors open at 7pm; the show starts at 8pm.

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FOOD&DRINK AWARDS 2013

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We are delighted to be able to bring you the very first *Kent Life & Kent on Sunday* Food & Drink Awards

THE Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards will take place at Tudor Park Hotel on Thursday, November 14, 2013, from 6.30pm to midnight.

These brand-new awards are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the good and the great from the county's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers – people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies nominated will all be voted for by you, our readers. We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your farmers' market or farm shop.

Entry forms are available online at **www.kentnews.co.uk**.

Entries close on Friday, August 30, 2013.

Our panel of judges will then select a shortlist, kickstarting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony in November, where they will enjoy a Champagne reception and three-course meal based on locally-sourced produce before finding out if they are a winner.

This is the first Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you the chance to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry, the ones that consistently go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a budding chef or local producer, then help to spread the word among your clients and visitors.

With our online voting system up and running, it takes no time at all to cast your vote.

The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than number of votes, so everybody is in with a chance, no matter how big or small your business is.

Event Partner:

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AWARDS CRITERIA

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Pomegranate Catering

This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink business who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. It could be any food and drink business but we want to know what impact they have made on the local community and whether they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience? Tell us who has impressed you.

BUTCHER OF THE YEAR

Porsche Centre Tonbridge

This category is here for one reason and that is to praise our many local butchers and everything they do for Kent. Consider asking your butcher how their meat is hung, prepared and cut and whether it can be traced to a local farm. Are the staff knowledgeable and helpful? Does the butcher play a key role within the local community? If so, nominate them.

BEST TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR

We recognise that tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam home made and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing about your favourites.

INDEPENDENT RETAILER OF THE YEAR

This category acknowledges the hard work Kent's independent food and drink retailers put into giving their customers the best possible experience in-store, reinforcing their role at the heart of the community and showing true innovation with their displays. We are looking for independent retailers who put local and seasonal at the heart of the food and drink experience and who are proud to work with and support the best the Garden of England can offer.

BEST FARM SHOP

WAGGON at HALE

Just like our Farmers' Markets, a good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

BEST FOOD OR DRINK PRODUCER

This category celebrates our local suppliers and producers who play such a vital role in the food community. We are looking for someone who consistently provides a reliable quality of products and services to their customers. So whether it's your local bakery, drinks merchant or meat producer, we want to know why this person or business goes the extra mile for you and gets your vote.

BEST FAMILY DINING VENUE

Eastwell Manor

We've all experienced that sinking feeling when you go out for a meal with the family and you know almost immediately the proprietors and staff would have preferred you to have left the kids at home. We want to know about the exact opposite, those establishments that welcome and treat with respect your whole party, from elderly to very young, and ideally don't banish you too an outer room away from the main dining area. Do they have high-quality menus that suit every age group, provide high chairs if needed, offer useful distractions such as paper and crayons for younger children to use at the table? Is there a children's play area and good baby-changing facilities in the toilets? And most importantly is the food of an excellent standard and worthy of mum and dad as well as the younger members of the party? Tell us all about your best family dining experience in Kent.

BEST PUB OF THE YEAR

faversham.org connect

Combining country pubs and dining pubs, the whole eating-out experience needs to be taken into account in this category. Customer service, value for money and the quality of the food should all be accounted for. How well does the establishment you recommend use and name local suppliers and seasonal produce throughout its menus? Neighbourhood pubs are at the heart of the local community and this category is your chance to give something back for all the enjoyment they give you. Are the staff friendly and welcoming, even if it isn't your local? Are there local ales, juices, wines and ciders available to purchase and if so, are they proudly on display? Also, note the quality and speed of the service, the overall atmosphere and ambience, both inside and outside in the beer garden.

BEST FARMER'S MARKET

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The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports – for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers, is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable and is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks, is it well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance, is there good accessibility and parking?

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Romney Marsh Fish Market

We suspect that this category will be one of our most coveted awards, as the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced and does it change with the seasons? Does chef support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Look through the wine list, are there local as well as international wines and sparkling wines and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from our Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Swans Kitchens & Bathrooms Ltd

Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion – that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

BEST KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO

Kent has a food and drink scene that is more vibrant than many others across the UK. This category celebrates the individual who has made the most impact on the food or drink community – someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent food and drink hero.

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

The Meze House took me back to those sunny Greek holidays

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

TUCKED away along a side road and hidden among residential flats, you would be forgiven for walking straight past The Meze House.

Word of mouth, however, has again proved its worth and it seems this new restaurant, just a stone's throw from The Leas in Folkestone, has already attracted a bit of a following.

One step into the surprisingly spacious restaurant and you feel a million miles away from the road outside and, despite being on the lower ground floor, the typical white-and-blue décor seen in many Greek eateries combined with big mirrors makes it bright and inviting.

Speaking to the waitress, The Meze House has been up and running for a year and is doing well, despite its understated location.

But perhaps this is part of its charm: a hide-away from the main bustle of the high street... a bit of escapism, it feels, to sunnier climes.

Of course, that feeling of being away on holiday was helped by the fact that the sun was finally shining, but it was primarily because of the food, cooked by a Greek chef, being so authentic.

We cautiously ordered a bottle of Keo Thisbe, a Cypriot white wine. I say cautiously as I have many times sampled Cypriot or Greek wines that left a lot to be desired. The friendly waitress, however, assured us that the wines had been carefully hand-picked. It was indeed delicious, light and refreshing – to almost dangerous proportions (I'd already drunk my second glass before finishing the first course).

My guest and I decided to go for the speciality set menu for two people. Having not been to the restaurant before, we were told it was a good way to sample a range of dishes.

The first delight brought to our table was a trio of tzatziki, hommous and tyrokafteri served with grilled pitas and olives, a plate of grilled halloumi cheese with olive oil and oregano, and a Greek salad. I made the common error of filling up on this first course, while my guest bided his time for the next round of dishes.

This included a stunning tyropita – a filo pastry and feta pie with honey and sesame – and calamari. Again both were delicious, the pie a tasty mix of salty and sweet and the calamari tender and juicy. Both were, however, incredibly filling and I was starting to doubt the strength of the top button of my trousers.

The final dishes were meatballs in a tomato sauce, grilled pork souvlaki skewers and skinny chips seasoned with oregano.

The food was mouth-watering. I had been to Greece just a year before and the meal was transporting me back there.

Too stuffed for desserts, we instead sat and finished the bottle of wine and took in the lovely atmosphere. At no point did we feel rushed.

The Meze House has managed to encapsulate the laid-back feel of an authentic Greek restaurant with delicious food to match.

The bill was £43.90.

Margaret Hall

■ **The Meze House**
5/6 Shakespeare Terrace, Folkestone
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Your chance to make world champion pasty

PASTY Presto, winner of this year's World Pasty Championships, is asking Ashford pasty-lovers, creative cooks and foodie fanatics to join it in creating the next great World Champion Pasty.

To celebrate the heritage of the Cornish classic, Kent's foodie fanatics are invited to use their creative flair and submit their ideas for the World Champion Pasty.

The winning recipe will be sent into Pasty Presto production in its Cornish kitchens before being sold in the McArthurGlen designer outlet on Kimberley Way, Ashford, and finally entered into the World Pasty Championships in March 2014.

For more details, visit pastypresto.com.

Top chef wants gongs around the corner

A TOP London chef has come home to Kent to work at his father's former restaurant.

Matt Sworder, 28, opened The Corner House in Minster, a venue previously known as Morton's Fork and run by Matt's father David.

The chef has worked at Gordon Ramsay's La Noisette and Anthony Demetre's Les Deux Salons in the capital but is bringing his modern British-style food to Thanet.

Matt is reportedly seeking a Bib Gourmand certificate for the Station Road eatery – these are awarded for good food at a reasonable price.

The Three Mariners at Oare and Age & Sons in Ramsgate already have the award.

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YOUR **WEEKEND**

Contestants preparing for final showdown in Kent Factor talent show

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE final of the county's top talent show, Kent Factor, is just a week away.

The competition, taking place at the Britannia Theatre at Dickens World in Chatham, has been holding auditions since April, with a variety of performers from musicians and comedians to dancers showing off their skills.

Each week a contestant has won through to the final after voting from a live audience. The final leg took place on Sunday, with the winner and remaining finalist making up the 15 to be named this weekend.

They will battle it out for the first prize of £5,000, second of £2,000 and third for £1,000 in front of an expert panel of judges at the theatre on Sunday (July 28).

Britannia Theatre general manager Lenny Andreou has been impressed by the standard of entries and been pleased to offer a platform for young artists to show what they're made of.

"It's been amazing," he said. "We have had more than 250 contestants showing off their skills.

"The quality has been good. It's like everything – if you watch Britain's Got Talent, you have the funny ones that come in and keep everyone entertained, but it's good.

"We have thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. It's something we wanted to do, to give young talent somewhere they can show their talent and tell people about Dickens World.

"There are not a lot of places where they can go on a stage and perform in front of a live audience."

Andreou is hoping family and friends of the performers will be joined by members of the public in cheering on the acts in the final.

"We have got limited tickets available for the live final for Kent on Sunday readers to come along and enjoy the event," he said.

Tickets are £7.50 each and can be booked by visiting www.britanniatheatrechatham.co.uk/kent-factor or phoning 0844 858 6656.

Kent Factor finalists

Macie Rose Hinchelwood (singer)
Francesca Lewell (singer, above right)
The McManigan Academy of Irish Dance (Irish dance group)
Leanna Zwozdiak (singer)
Revolution (street dance crew)
Jamie Johnson (singer/songwriter/guitarist)
Steve Lett (singer/guitarist)
Tamara Castle (singer)
Brooke Meredith (solo dance act)
Salestyn David (singer/songwriter/guitarist)
Jodie Lisa Ryan (singer)
Ellie Rose Eames (solo dance act)
Daisy Tickel (singer, above left)
Los Elementos (salsa group)

DIG IN! Teams are wanted for sandcastle event

Mark Sargeant on the beach to judge best sandcastles

A BEACH in Folkestone will be given a makeover with the seventh annual charity sandcastle competition at the end of the month.

Sunnysands beach next to Folkestone harbour will host the event, in aid of the Church Street Project, which provides creative therapy and counselling to children in Shepway.

Entrants of up to 10 people per team have two-and-a-half hours to create a sandcastle or sculpture, with prizes on offer for the winners including a return trip to France with a car and up to nine passengers courtesy of P&O Ferries; a meal for four at Folkestone restaurant Rocksalt; fish and chips for four at The Smokehouse; and four tickets to Kidz Planet.

The competition, on Sunday, July 28, starts at 10am, with judging taking place at 12.30pm.

The event will be opened by Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins, with the judging carried out by celebrity chef Mark Sargeant.

Teams are asked to make a minimum donation of £10 on the day for entry.

For more information, email event organiser Shane Record shane@shanerecord.com or phone 01303 240452.

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Berry good year for fruit growers with county show awards

THE county's fruit growers reaped an impressive harvest at this year's National Cherry and Soft Fruit Show.

The event, which took place alongside the Kent County Show at Detling last weekend, saw 37 awards shared by six growers affiliated to fruit production giant Berry Gardens.

Although entries were down this year – due to the weather creating a late cherry harvest – among those picking up awards were BR Brooks & Son in Faversham, Mereworth's Hugh Lowe Farms, Kelsey Farms in Canterbury, Maidstone's Clock House Farm, Sunrise Fruits in Canterbury and Sittingbourne's Robert Boucher.

It total, there were more than 100 entries, with 19 varieties of cherries in addition to strawberries and raspberries.

Now in its 83rd year, the National Cherry and Soft Fruit Show is the leading competition of its kind and one of the oldest soft and stone fruit shows, taking entries from growers all over the UK.

The annual contest is the third most visited exhibit at the Kent County Show.

125 staff wanted for new John Lewis store

RETAIL giant John Lewis has started a recruitment push for 125 staff at its new store in Ashford.

The firm, which is currently constructing an At Home outlet near junction nine of the M20, is seeking sales assistants, specialist advisors and catering professionals.

And demand is likely to be strong due to the company's high-profile partnership scheme which means staff co-own the business. In addition to other benefits is an annual bonus which in the past has equalled thousands of pounds.

The shop is John Lewis's 10th At Home outlet and is due to open before the end of the year, focusing on furniture, furnishing accessories, electrical and home technology.

Glynis Gunning-Stevenson, branch manager of the Ashford store, said: "As a business we are committed to recruiting locally and I'm confident our recruitment team will select a strong group of individuals to help launch our shop."

If you have a business story, then we would like to hear from you. Telephone the newsdesk on **01303 817000**, or alternatively email your story to **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**

Picture: ADY KERRY

THE MAIN ATTRACTION: British Airways Airbus A380 will train pilots and staff at Manston Airport

Manston destination for BA Airbus training

MANSTON Airport has welcomed British Airways' massive Airbus A380 – the world's largest commercial passenger aircraft.

The new addition to British Airways' fleet will be based at the Thanet airport as part of the airline's training for its pilots, flight crew and cabin staff before the A380s enter service in September.

Manston bosses say it once again underlines the role the airport can play in the area.

Each A380 aircraft can carry 469 passengers over two decks with four cabins.

Charles Buchanan, chief executive of Manston Airport, said: "It's exciting to think that Manston welcomed the first of our national flag carrier A380s and that Kent saw the distinctive union flag tail-fin before Los Angeles and Hong Kong, the airline's first routes for the new aircraft.

"We welcomed David Cameron recently when he officially opened the London Array wind farm and Manston's potential did not go unnoticed.

"With the debate over the future provision of airport capacity in the south east currently raging, the decision by British Airways to use Manston for training graphically illustrates the capability, flexibility and capacity of the largest under-utilised runway in the region."

Change in outdated business rates system needed to help shop owners

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ASK any shopkeeper to list their primary gripes and the thorny topic of business rates is almost certain to raise its head.

So it will come as little surprise that a survey by one business support organisation has shed worrying light on how it impacts on business.

The poll by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), which quizzed some 2,425 members, revealed almost one in 10 now pay more in rates than they do in rent.

Now it is calling for a major overhaul of the system, saying it puts far too much strain on businesses – many already struggling against the twin threats of the economic squeeze and the decline of town centres as retail hubs.

The survey found a fifth of respondents pay full business rates, with three in 10 firms receiving some form of rates relief, such as small business or rural rate relief.

However, the FSB is concerned seven per cent of respondents paying business rates say they pay more in rates than rent. A further six per cent say their rates and rent costs are about the same.

The FSB insists the business rates system is cumbersome and overly complex, and would like to see the Government take a formal review to make it simpler and fairer.

The call comes ahead of another inflationary rise due to be calculated in September.

The FSB wants to see the Government change the inflation index used to calculate annual increases from the RPI (Retail Price Index) to the CPI (Consumer Price Index) to bring it in line with other government policies.

The key difference between the CPI and RPI – both of which measure inflation – is subtle.

Both use the traditional method of taking a basket of goods, food, clothes and petrol, and comparing and contrasting the price to find the propotional difference.

However, the CPI does not take into account other key costs to the shopper, such as mortgage payment, rents and council tax, while RPI does.

As a consequence, RPI tends to reflect a higher level of inflation to CPI.

Roger House is chairman of the Kent and Medway branch of the FSB.

He explained: "The current rating system is a blunt tool for maintaining the Government's income even when everyone else's is shrinking.

"It takes no account of ability to pay or changes to economic conditions.

"It is based on rental values but only adjusts its valuation assumptions every five years.

"Its treatment of empty property is tantamount to a tax on no income, and it continues to use RPI for annual tax increases because it is normally above the Government's official measure of inflation, CPI. The FSB wants to see a level playing field for all Kent businesses.

"There is no doubt small businesses across the county are struggling for survival. Indeed, business rates are one of the highest costs for many Kent businesses after wages and rent, and for seven per cent of small businesses, business rates were actually higher than rent.

"Businesses will continue to be lost as a result of this outdated and unfair system.

"The Autumn Statement will need a wide range of measures to target relief at businesses most in danger, and it will need to talk to businesses about a major overhaul of the system.

"It doesn't work anymore; it is crushing small businesses and killing our high streets. That surely can't be right."

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Bluewater pop-up shop for Leigh's UTC during consultation period

SHOPPING: For a new course?

THE team behind the £11m Leigh University Technical College in Dartford - which opens for business in September 2014 - has opened a pop-up store at shopping complex Bluewater.

It provides stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss the college's plans to add to the secondary school mix in the area, as it embarks on a programme of consultation with the local community.

Leigh UTC is also using the store to market the courses available and to highlight the variety and quality of education, training and experience on offer.

Created by the Leigh Academies Trust, in conjunction with the University of Greenwich, the UTC also has support from engineering firms which include Dartford-based Caterham Cars.

It is not the only Kent UTC - Medway has also been given the nod to open one of the new breed of schools.

Pass rate fuels golden book-keeping award

MIDKENT College has received a special award in recognition of its high quality teaching of book-keeping.

The International Association of Bookkeepers (IAB) named the Medway campus a "gold centre" after 100 per cent of students on the level 2 certificate in business administration passed the relevant unit of the course for the third year running. Lecturer Jan Clowser accepted the award at a ceremony held at the House of Commons.

Studio hits right note as K expands creative side

K COLLEGE is expanding its range of creative industry courses at its specialist art and fashion campus on Ashford's Henwood estate.

In addition, it has been confirmed the campus will offer further education courses in music technology and graphic design to run alongside art and fashion courses.

Among the new facilities being installed is a 256-track, 40-channel recording studio - similar to that used by the top stars.

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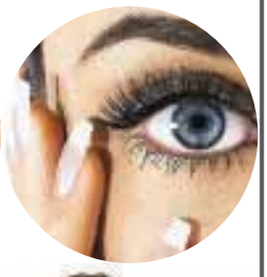

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ORDER: Generosity helps put Kent Law Clinic on course for opening by 2015

Entrepreneur donates £1m for law school site

THE University of Kent has received a £1 million donation from entrepreneur and philanthropist Charles Wigoder towards building a new home for its successful Kent Law Clinic.

The donation - one of the biggest single gifts from an individual in the university's history - will go towards a major fundraising campaign currently under way.

Mr Wigoder, who built up his fortune in telecommunications, is an alumnus of the university.

It is hoped the new building, at the university's Canterbury campus, will be open for business in two years' time.

The Kent Law Clinic, which is part of the university's Kent Law School, operates as a partnership between students, academics and practicing solicitors and barristers.

It provides a public 'pro bono' service for people who need free legal advice and representation but cannot afford to pay for it, while at the same time enabling students to gain experience of the law by working under supervision on cases for clients of the clinic.

Work is expected to begin next year on the new building – which will also include a new 'mooting' court to allow students to become familiar with a courtroom – with a formal opening due during the university's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2015.

Professor John Fitzpatrick, director of the Kent Law Clinic, said: "Everyone connected with the clinic is hugely grateful for this major donation to our fundraising campaign.

"This exciting new building for our law clinic will enable us to expand significantly our pro bono service to the public, which in turn will mean that more of our students will have the opportunity to learn about law through hands-on case work experience.

"Our new mooting room will also enable students to hone their advocacy skills in a realistic courtroom environment."

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, vice-chancellor of the University of Kent, added: "We are delighted that Charles Wigoder has chosen to make this very significant donation to support the university's award-winning Kent Law Clinic.

"As a highly successful alumnus of the University, it is very pleasing that Charles has chosen to support a project that will ensure many more of our law students are able to gain first-hand experience of case work, which will provide them with a real advantage when they graduate."

Law students and alumni have also been raising money – via a series of recent sponsored events – to support the campaign's target of £5m for the new building.

In June, a team of 16 students, alumni, staff and friends undertook the daunting Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds, while in May law student Hannah Bignell was sponsored to swim the equivalent of the length of the English Channel at a Canterbury leisure centre.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

Finding evidence of a top quality course

THE next generation of forensic scientists have been given a boost after the Medway-based University of Greenwich secured key accreditation for its specialist courses.

The school of science at the university has been awarded Forensic Science Society (FSS) accreditation for its programmes in forensic science and forensic science with criminology.

Assessors praised the facilities at Greenwich, highlighting the laboratories, crime scene room and the focus on learning by doing, which gives students the opportunity to combine practical experience with academic learning.

Robert Green OBE, senior lecturer in forensic science at the university, says: "The crime scene room is the size of a big sitting room.

"We can set it up to be, say, a bedroom where a sexual crime has taken place, or a sitting room where there's been a murder, and the students work their way through finding the evidence.

"Being accredited by the Forensic Science Society puts us in the premier league because it is a professional stamp of approval."

Greenwich offers FSS membership to all its students.

Sky proving the limit for hard-pressed landlords wanting to screen sport

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PUB landlords say the cost of screening top-level sport is becoming so expensive it is making them switch-off from showing the likes of Premier League football and the Ashes.

One pub and restaurant owner in Tunbridge Wells said he had to call time on the satellite service after provider Sky wanted a staggering £2,400 a month for him to show Sky Sports in his pub.

The cost of showing Sky Sports channels in public venues varies, but the national average is said to be around £400 a month for pubs.

And with BT ready to launch its BT Sport channels this summer too, also offering Premier League football, some landlords face seeing their bills soar even higher.

Matt Sankey runs the popular Sankeys pub and restaurant in Tunbridge Wells.

He told KoS: "I did have Sky Sports, but they charge according to the rateable value of the property plus its turnover. I dropped it about seven years ago because they wanted £2,400 a month from me.

"This is not a football pub, but I would like to show the Ashes and other cricket, plus rugby and tennis. But I am not allowed to do that. It's all or nothing.

"I should imagine pubs that are empty when there is no football on, and busy when it is being screened, are finding it difficult. I am not prepared to pay more than £2,000 to show what I call premier sports. It's just crazy."

One solution is to find an alternative. Roy Barker at the Dragoon in Maidstone found what he thinks is ideal.

He told us: "Sky charges us £1,000 a month and it is crippling business. But I went online to see if there are any alternatives and came up with ADTV, which is Abu Dhabi Television Network.

"For £150 a month for one of their boxes, the signal comes in on the usual broadband and shows all the football matches I need.

"For the moment I have both companies, but my customers are happy with ADTV so I am now seriously considering dropping Sky.

GAMES END: Many landlords are switched off by the exorbitant cost of screening top sport in their pubs

"A saving of £850 a month will make all the difference to me."

Greg Liddon, landlord of the small family orientated Three Cups Inn at Dover, said he "played hardball" with Sky and got a decent discount from the £400 a month he was paying.

He told us: "I will say Sky is now quite happy to negotiate, or at least they were with me. The chap came down to the pub, saw how small we are and was prepared to do a deal.

"I told him if I dropped Sky, they lose out completely. I also agreed to sign up for a longer contract rather than go with the monthly rolling contract they have for most pubs. It made good business sense all round."

A spokesman for the Spirit Pub Company, which runs the Old Ash Tree in Medway, told us they are also worried about the cost.

The company said: "While we are happy with the service we have received from our Sky Sports subscriptions, we are currently in negotiations with Sky as per the company policy to regularly review supplier contracts to ensure they are meeting company objectives on price and delivery."

Alison Dolan, deputy managing director of Sky Business, told us: "Sky has frozen subscription prices on its Sky Ultimate package for two successive years, meaning landlords will not have had a price increase since September 2010.

"Throughout these price freezes, we have continued to invest in our product.

"On-screen, this has included broadening Sky's range of sports rights, innovating in coverage and using the best analysts around to ensure Sky Sports remains unbeatable for bringing people into local pubs and generating revenue for these publicans. Despite increasing costs and our continued investment, we are choosing not to pass on any cost increases onto licensees, because we recognise that the trading environment remains tough for publicans."

She also warns: "Sky Sports is not carried on Abu Dhabi TV. Sky Sports is only available to pubs in mainland UK, via a commercial agreement from Sky Business."

Broadcasting watchdog Ofcom added: "What Sky Sports charge is down to them – it is a commercial decision."

Property firm AIMs high as flotation on the stock market values it at £4.6m

PROPERTY developer Trafalgar New Homes this week floated on the stockmarket - valuing the company at some £4.6million.

Shares in the Edenbridge-based firm began trading on AIM (the Alternative Investment Market) on Tuesday.

Christopher Johnson, CEO of the company, said: "It has always been our intention to move to AIM at an appropriate time and the board believes the group has made sufficient progress that the move to AIM is now the logical next step."

The residential property developer focuses its business on Kent, Surrey, Sussex and the M25 ring south of London.

It believes it occupies a niche slot in the sector, between local builders and developers and the large house building companies.

Mr Johnson added: "We have a continuing commitment to provide quality homes at realistic prices in the most sought after locations. We are excited with the prospects for the company."

Prior to flotation, the firm raised £280,000 through the issue of 14m ordinary shares at 2p.

At the point of entering the market, it will have 228,375,190 ordinary shares - giving it an approximate market capitalisation of £4.6m.

Family-run property developer Combe Bank Homes is a wholly-owned trading subsidiary of Trafalgar, which was established in 2006.

Directors of Trafalgar expect the latest financial results - up to the end of the financial year on March 31 - will be announced next month.

For all the latest business news see www.businessforkent.co.uk.

STOCKS: Shares went live this week

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Confidence returning as exports increase

BUSINESS confidence in the south east is holding steady, according to the latest survey, which also reveals companies in the region have increased exports by 3.1 per cent over the last year.

The latest ICAEW/Grant Thornton Business Confidence Monitor (BCM) survey said confidence had recovered from a dip in the second half of 2012. Firms are also expecting export levels to continue to grow over the next 12 months.

Docks turn on wifi for cross-Channel users

DOVER has flicked the switch on a free wifi service for ferry customers using its Eastern Docks.

Port of Dover chief executive Tim Waggott said: "This is a clear and tangible example of how the port is working hard to improve the experience of its customers and to provide the quality of service and level of facilities that everyone should expect."

Don't trip up with exit clauses, warn lawyers

LAWYERS are advising companies to check their contracts to ensure they do not contain unjustifiable 'penalty' clauses.

King's Hill-based Vertex Law says there is increasing evidence that businesses facing penalties for breaches of contract are challenging the sums of money involved and calling on the courts to decide whether they exceed a genuine pre-estimate of damages.

GSE net sponsorship deal with Hythe Town

RYMAN League Division One South football club Hythe Town has secured a two-year sponsorship deal with GSE Group.

It signed a deal for an undisclosed sum with the Hythe-based building, civil engineering and construction firm, for main sponsorship rights.

The firm's Hythe Imperial Hotel will appear as the branding on the club's first team shirts with GSE Group on away kit.

Law firm celebrates as it opens new office

MORE than 120 people turned out to mark the opening of a new office in Tenterden by long-established Kent law firm Whitehead Monckton.

The reception was staged to celebrate moving into office space in Market Square. It already has offices in Maidstone and Canterbury. Partner Tim Monckton said: "We have been watching the new building take shape and are delighted to have finally moved in."

Full steam ahead as P&O strike crisps deal

KENT Crisps has struck a deal with ferry giant P&O to stock its brand on its cross-Channel ships.

Grown on the Quex Park estate, the crisps have used their Kentish flavours as their USP, proving a hit with retailers.

The crisps will be sold on P&O's Dover to Calais, Hull to Holland and Hull to Zeebrugge services.

MidKent College can help you to deliver a firm improvement

BUSINESSES keen to maintain a competitive edge are urged to take advantage of the courses and products offered by Business Services at MidKent College.

From bespoke training and apprenticeships to the college's very own Microsoft Academy and JobShop, MKC Business Services can help improve a firm from top to bottom.

And with the economy poised to bounce back following a lengthy period of decline, there's never been a better time for employers to ensure they stay ahead of the pack.

Based at the college's new higher-education centre at its Maidstone campus, MKC Business Services consists of a team of education and training experts with years of experience in the field.

The first of four key services offered by Business Services is its wide range of bespoke training packages, offering professional qualifications in a variety of courses including training and leadership, health and safety and lots more.

Business Services manager Jacqui Brown said: "Training can be delivered during the working day, twilight evenings or weekends to address your needs and fit in with your schedules.

"We work with you and your team to determine the course content, ensuring it is highly relevant to you and your staff.

"We'll also align training to match your business culture and values."

Firms keen to keep up with the pace of technology can take advantage of the Microsoft Academy, which offers fully-accredited technical and Office programs from a dedicated IT suite at the college's Medway campus.

Service number three is the JobShop, which provides recruitment solutions by advertising job vacancies to existing students for free. Only students who fulfil certain criteria are notified of the vacancies, ensuring only the most appropriate candidates are put forward for application.

Finally, Business Services is also responsible for more than 20 apprenticeship programmes at the college, giving employers the support they need to train the skilled workforce of the future.

Mancini Legal strengthens its presence in the South

ALESSANDRO Mancini, chief executive of Mancini Legal Limited, achieved his 2013 goal by strengthening the firm's position in the South with the opening of a new office in the prestigious location of Kings Hill, near West Malling.

The Kings Hill office covers local areas such as Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Bromley, as well as central and north London locations, Essex and Hertfordshire.

This effectively complements the head office in the affluent town of Horsham, which covers Sussex, Surrey and central and south London.

The Kings Hill office is headed by Sean Burton, an experienced solicitor who joined the firm at the beginning of the year after a successful career in a Legal 500 City firm.

Mr Burton specialises in dispute resolution (contracts, debt recovery, civil litigation) and negligence (professional negligence, personal injury and medical negligence). He also covers other areas such as wills and probate, conveyancing and employment.

Mancini Legal acts for both businesses and private individuals alike and on either side of a legal dispute.

The firm has client care and customer service at its heart and it is upon this foundation that it was established.

The firm prides itself on offering that extra level of personal service when approached by clients seeking legal assistance by being personable, caring and friendly.

The team is committed to building long-lasting relationships with clients based on trust, honesty and professionalism.

Mancini Legal appreciates that time is precious for its clients and therefore offers flexible appointments between the hours of 7am and 10pm (by prior arrangement).

For fast, professional and friendly advice, call the team now on 01732 445 445 (lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week).

The motto for all the staff at Mancini Legal is: "Listen. Understand. Advise". It is an approach that has served well!

Join Kent's best kept secret

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Bespoke Training - We offer a wide range of bespoke training packages, offering professional qualifications in a variety of sectors including Education, Leadership and Management, Project Management, Health and Safety, and Security.

Microsoft IT Academy *(newly awarded Centre of Excellence status)* - Those keen to keep up-to date with technology can take advantage of our Microsoft Academy which offers a range of fully-accredited technical and Microsoft Office programmes from our dedicated IT suites.

JobShop - The JobShop provides free recruitment solutions by advertising job vacancies to existing students who have achieved the required criteria within our Employability Passport Scheme.

Apprenticeships - Business Services deliver a wide range of apprenticeship programmes, giving employers the support they need to train the skilled workforce of the future.

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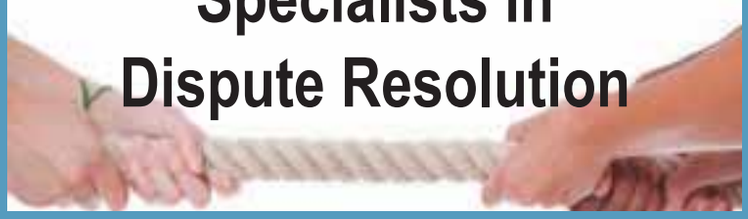

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Grand Cherokee to launch high-end attack
- Mazda3 given same makeover as big brother
- New-look Micra goes upmarket, inside and out

Duster leads the way as Renault aims to clean up in SUV sector

Driving

Powered by motors.co.uk

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FIRST DRIVE VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE

Price: from £18,405
Driving appeal: ★★★★
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★
Value: ★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Mini Convertible

Beetle crop-top back to its best

NOT surprisingly, having reinterpreted the classic Beetle shape so brilliantly with the new-generation saloon launched last April, Volkswagen has come up with a lovely convertible.

Looking less pram-like than the crop-top version of the so-called New Beetle (2003-10), the latest Beetle Cabriolet is arguably the most stylish small open-top car you can buy, upstaging the Mini Convertible and also managing to be more practical – boot space is 224 litres against the Mini's 125.

The new car is lower, longer and wider than its recent predecessor and dumps the Toytown looks in favour of a more sporting approach, which also marks a departure from the glorious yet staid old 1949 Cabriolet version of the original Beetle.

However, VW stylists have cleverly drawn on the past with launch editions that show what can be done with an imaginative options list and, for outright retro charm, it's hard to beat the 50s Edition (from £24,895) with its chrome hubcaps and wheel-trims echoing white-wall tyres – whatever happened to those?

You can also have suitably nostalgic 60s (from £26,115) and 70s Edition (from £25,690) models, all three being based on the mid-range Design spec (from £20,800).

OK, so you've gathered the new Cabrio is not cheap, though standard kit includes air-con and a sound system with digital radio.

Then again, as the Mini and Fiat 500 have proved, image-conscious buyers of cars like this are not only willing to pay more but are also eyeing up a wide-ranging options list that includes things like legendary guitar-maker Fender's branded sound system.

As suggested earlier, the new Cabrio goes head to head with BMW's Mini Convertible in most buyers' minds and, apart from deciding which retro design you like most, the choice might come down to driving dynamics and practicality; the Mini noses ahead on the former but loses out on the latter.

The Beetle is geared far more to comfort so doesn't have the point-and-shoot appeal of its rival – it feels a bit stodgy on corners.

But the two rear seats will accommodate two adults, providing they are not sitting behind six-footers who need the front seats back a long way, and there is that decent boot.

The cabin is also superbly evocative of the original Beetle: lovers of the original car will like the colour-coded dashboard and door-trimming.

The electric well-insulated roof with heated-glass rear screen folds neatly in just 9.5 seconds and this can be done at speeds up to 31mph.

As ever with VW, there is a good choice of petrol and diesel and even a super-eco entry, trim BlueMotion Technology 1.6-litre diesel option (from £20,220), but the 160PS (158bhp) turbocharged 1.4-litre (from £22,690) will save you money upfront and deliver good performance.

DON'T LIKE

... the elasticated door-pockets. Retro they may be, but perhaps this design rightly died away because it failed to keep things in place properly?

NOT SURE

... the price is as sexy as the style and image. Incidentally, VW currently has three crop-tops competing for business: Beetle, Golf and Eos.

REALLY LIKE

... the overall package. This is a highly desirable, classy and customisable convertible that also happens to be practical and comfortable.

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Dacia Sandero = from **£5,995***

Dacia Logan MCV = from **£6,995***

Dacia Sandero Stepway = from **£7,995***

Dacia Duster = from **£8,995***

You do the maths

5 YEAR WARRANTY £5 A MONTH

Sandero shown is a Lauréate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. Logan MCV shown is a Lauréate 1.2 16V 75 from £8,995. Duster shown is a Lauréate dCi 110 4X2 from £12,995.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Dacia range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)-65.7 (4.3); Extra Urban 40.3 (7)-80.7 (3.5); Combined 35.3 (8)-74.3 (3.8). The official CO_2 emissions for the range are 185-99g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 20% VAT, 12-month Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Prices shown are Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Prices, which apply to new Dacia vehicles when ordered by 30 September 2013. 5YR Standard manufacturer warranty is 3 years/60,000 miles (whichever comes first). Option to extend this to 5 years/60,000 miles (whichever comes first) is available for a £395 charge for cash customers or £300 charge (equivalent to just £5 a month over a 5-year term) for finance customers. Standard HP offer based on Dacia Access 1.6 16V 105 4 x 2: cash price £8,995, customer deposit £744, followed by 60 monthly payments of £169. Representative APR 9.9%. On all agreements a £99 arrangement fee is payable with the first monthly payment, plus a £149 Option to Purchase fee with final payment. Subject to status, guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 years old and a UK resident (excluding Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Ltd, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Metallic paint available at an additional £495 (except Sandero Stepway).

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Price is right for Dacia's Duster

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RENAULT'S long-threatened price war using its budget-brand Dacia began as a phoney war.

The Romanian-built range was in such demand elsewhere, said Renault, that production capacity simply could not be spared to turn out UK-spec right-hand-drive cars.

So the standard-bearer for the invasion, the Duster SUV-cum-crossover tested here, eventually arrived toward the end of last year – and late.

But it has made up for lost time, helped by a headline-grabbing entry price of £8,995 that buys an SUV for supermini money and roughly half that of an equivalent Qashqai from Nissan, Renault and Dacia's sister brand.

Mind you, that only gets you a front-wheel-drive petrol Duster Access with a Spartan look inside and out: rubber bumpers, black roof-rails, steel wheels and no radio – yes, you heard right, or, rather, nothing... unless you pay extra.

But most buyers trade up to a top-spec Duster Laureate (from £12,995), where standard kit includes alloys, air-con, electric windows, leather-trimmed steering wheel, satin chrome roof-bars, heated and electrically-adjustable door-mirrors and a major cabin upgrade

The 4x4 versions also look good value (from £10,995) for those needing a cut-price off-roader.

Mindful that would-be buyers might need a confidence boost to buy into a new brand, though some might remember it appearing here in the 1980s, Dacia offers to extend the standard three-year/60,000-mile warranty by increments to as high as seven-/100,000 for an extra £850, though other brands give you the same or similar peace of mind for free.

As cars of this type go, the Duster is a sleek design, if easily marred by the rubber bumpers and steel wheels of the ultra-cheapo model.

Buy the Ambiance or Laureate versions, though, and you have a handsome-looking car, and the styling does not flatter to deceive because the Duster is incredibly practical – probably the best in this class at any price.

There's generous head and legroom for three adults across the back and a big 475-litre boot that expands to a 1,636-litre cargo space with seats flopped down – the Qashqai offers 410 and 860 litres respectively.

You will also be surprised at the cabin's fit and finish; at this price, you don't expect luxury, but the materials aren't horrible and do appear durable. My biggest grumble was the quality of the seats: the test car had travelled just a few thousand miles, but the lack of support – particularly lateral – suggested it had already racked up tens of thousands.

The car could also use more insulation, particularly for motorway cruising when there is a little too much intrusion from tyres, wind and engine.

Not that the engine on the test car can be criticised for refinement: it is Renault's much-loved 1.5dCi turbodiesel unit.

Apart from the 105bhp petrol unit offered on Duster entry models, this 108bhp diesel is the mainstay of the Duster line-up. It is smooth, tried and trusted, low-emission and frugal, offering up to 56.5mpg on the official combined cycle if you buy a front-wheel-drive-only model.

The 4x4 powertrain on our test car knocks this back a tad to 53.3, but there is plenty of pulling power to exploit the Duster's limited but easily selected off-road capability if required.

On-road, the high-riding Duster does lean a bit on corners – as is the wont of SUVs – and the vague steering won't find favour with keen drivers, but the ride comfort is good.

All of which adds up to an affordable family wagon, with a useful 4x4 option if you want to add £2,000 to the price

DACIA DUSTER AMBIANCE 1.5DCI 4X4: PRICE £13,495 FACT BOX

Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£125/year
Best rival:	Skoda Yeti

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Tunbridge Wells	01892 539466

DONE AND DUSTED: Dacia's budget-buy Duster is an incredibly practical SUV for an excellent starter price, though many buyers will probably want to upgrade to the higher-spec models available that still offer fantastic value for money

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Cherokee has grand intent

JEEP has launched a heavily-revised Grand Cherokee targeting the VW Touareg, Land Rover Discovery and Volvo XC90.

Aggressively priced and highly specified from £36,995, there are also signs induction into the Fiat empire is paying dividends.

Jim Ogilvie, brand manager for Lipscomb Chrysler Jeep at Maidstone, said: "There's a world of difference between the new and the old car."

More Skyactiv for Mazda's 3

MAZDA will follow its stylish new 6 model with an all-new Mazda3 later this year, employing the same swooping good looks.

This is especially the case with the new 3 saloon, complementing the hatchback.

Both will tackle the VW Golf/Ford Focus sector and employ the brand's Skyactiv weight-saving and economy measures, already seen on the 6 and CX-5 SUV.

Micra hopping into view soon

OUT goes the slightly frog-eyed front end and in comes an upmarket, well-judged rework to highlight a facelift for the Nissan Micra supermini.

Due in September, priced from £9,950, the new-look Micra also gets a complete interior makeover with USB connectivity as standard. Two petrol engines are offered: a conventional 80PS (79bhp) 1.2-litre and lively 98PS (97bhp) 1.2-litre supercharged.

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Motorline Tunbridge Wells
Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent, TN2 3UY
Tel: 0844 822 7169

www.motorline.toyota.co.uk

Model shown is AYGO Ice 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £7,495. Offer excludes metallic paint extra £450. Prices correct at time of going to press and include £2,140 customer saving, VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

AYGO Fire 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO2 Emissions 99g/km.The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

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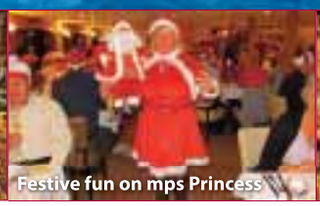
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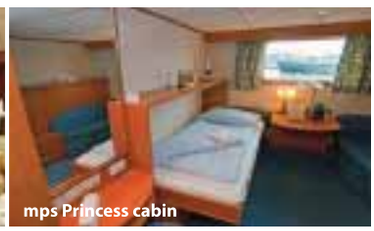
mps Princess

mps Princess restaurant


mps Princess cabin

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The Foreland School

T: 01843 863 891 Headteacher – Nick Howard
Lanthorne Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3NX

The Foreland School is a Day Special School for pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN), many of whom also have Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Due to rising pupil numbers we now have the following vacancies for September start:-

Teaching Assistants and Supply Teaching Assistants

Full time Teaching Assistants and Casual Supply Teaching Assistants are required in all departments of the school (age range 4 - 19years). Full time positions are for 30.75 hours per week, 39 weeks per year (Term time plus 5 days INSET). Casual Supply positions are for work on an 'as and when required' basis. Candidates will be expected to meet our minimum qualification criteria, and demonstrate flexibility to work across all age ranges of the school.

Lunchtime Servery Assistants ~ 12.5hours per week, term time plus 5 deep cleaning days

Lunchtime Servery Assistants required for 12.5 hours per week Monday to Friday during term time, plus 5 additional training/ deep cleaning days as required. Candidates will ideally have some previous experience of working in a food service or food handling environment, and either hold a CIEH Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate or be prepared to undertake necessary training and study.

Midday Meals Assistants ~ up to 10 hours per week, term time only

Midday Meals Assistants are required to work cooperatively with Teachers and class teams to meet the learning, social and care needs of pupils during the lunch time period. Hours of work are approximately 11:45am to 1:45pm Monday to Friday during term time plus up to 5 additional training days as required.

Administrative Assistant ~ Part time, term time only

Applications are invited to join our hard working and experienced administration team. Candidates will have the ability to work as part of a team, meet set deadlines, have a good sense of humour, be adaptable and have the ability to multi-task. Excellent interpersonal skills, calmness under pressure, a professional approach and absolute confidentiality are essential requirements for this position.

Further information about the school and details of all positions (including closing dates, Job Descriptions and the application process) are available at **www.kent-teach.com** Applications for all positions **WILL ONLY** be accepted on a KCC Support Staff Application form, which is available to download via the website.

In accordance with our commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of our pupils ALL shortlisted candidates will be subject to an Enhanced Data and Barring Service check.

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.
The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff.

BOOKINGS ADMINISTRATOR (Dover)

3 days per week
Qualifications: Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent)
2 years' experience working in an administration environment
IT skills, E-Mail, Internet

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Paul Parish – Business Office Manager
or
Julie Pain – Deputy Business Office Manager
01304 245958 or 01843 234555

For job description and application form please contact:
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The Spencer Private Hospital
2nd Floor, Atina House, Bench Street
Dover Kent CT16 1JH
Telephone: 01304 245951 Fax: 01304 207320
E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com
Alternatively you can download an application form and job description from our website www.spencerprivatehospitals.com

Closing date for applications Friday 2 Aug 2013

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Data & Barring Service Disclosure check

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Sessional Lecturer in Art and Design

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MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

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Some experience of GP practice computer systems and counselling skills are desirable but not necessary.

Please contact Lisa Ducker on 01530 562369 or email lisa.ducker@ashfieldin2focus.com

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

SENIOR STAFF NURSE Two full-time positions
Qualifications Registered Nurse 1st Level. Minimum 2 years post registration/equivalent experience.
Evidence of continual professional development. Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent.
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Mary Guarnieri, (Matron) – 01843 234252

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OR **Mary Guarnieri, Matron 01843 234252**
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Vicky Smith (Clinical Effectiveness Co-ordinator) 01843 234555 ext 62207

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Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Private Hospital, 2nd Floor, Atina House, Bench Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1JH
Telephone: 01304 245951 Fax: 01304 207320 E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com

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Full time Lifeguards £5.27 to 6.36 per hour dependent upon age

Applicants who are not already NPL Qualified will be required to complete a swim test and pay in advance to attend the next course running from 4th to 10th August. Successful applicants may be able to claim reimbursement of the course fee upon commencement of employment.

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For full details and an application form please visit our website www.yourleisure.uk.com or call Head Office on 01843 868302.

Alternatively you can collect an application from Dover or Tides Leisure Centres.

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010, PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREA) ACT 1990 - SECTION 67.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) AND 13(4) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT.

Proposed development at LAND AT LANGLEY PARK, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT.

I give notice that Taylor Wimpey UK Limited

has applied to the MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

For outline planning permission for the erection of up to 600 dwellings, with associated local centre comprising convenience store (Use Class A1) (1,300sqm - 1,500sqm), retail/commercial units (Use Class A1, A2, A3, A5 and/or D1) (400sqm GFA), and public house (Use Class A4) (550sqm - 700sqm); a two form entry primary school (with pre-school provision and a community facility); public open space; allotments; nature conservation area; and landscaping; with all matters reserved except for the following:

1) Means of vehicular access to the site from Sutton Road, and the spin road within the site;

2) 170 dwellings (phase 1) with its associated open space;

3) Drainage provision, including the surface water attenuation facility, strategic foul and surface water drainage infrastructure and pumping station;

4) Earthworks, to include ground re-modelling.

And that the application is accompanied by an environmental statement. The proposed development would affect the setting of a listed building, is a major development as defined in Article 2 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010, affecting a public right of way, and does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the Borough of Maidstone.

Application Reference **MA/13/1149.**

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application and environmental statement on the Council's website via www.maidstone.gov.uk or at our Reception at the address below during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm) excluding Bank Holidays.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Mr A. Anderson, Pegasus Group, First Floor, South Wing, Equinox North, Great Park Road, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4QL so long as stocks last, at a charge of £250 for a paper copy and £50 for a CD copy.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should do so via the link on the Council's website www.maidstone.gov.uk or write to the Council, quoting reference **MA/13/1149**, at:- Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6JQ by **8th August 2013**

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Public Notice

14 July 2013

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Local Government Act 1972 – Section 123(2A) (as inserted by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980)

Proposed disposal of land adjacent to 64 Warwick Road, Canterbury, which is designated as public open space

Canterbury City Council hereby gives notice of their intention to dispose of land designated as public open space, being 0.007 ha of land adjacent to the car parking area at 64 Warwick Road, Canterbury for the construction of eight affordable flats for older people.

A plan showing the above area may be inspected at the Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays.

Anyone wishing to make objections to the proposed disposal of land should make them in writing to Tricia Marshall, Director of Resources, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW so as to arrive not later than **9am on Monday 12 August 2013**.

Colin Carmichael, Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB92 IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB92) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 16th July 2012, and subsequently extended until the 15th July 2013, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath CB92 has been extended for a further 24 months, until 15th July 2015.

The path is closed at Westbere level crossing, between Walnut Tree Lane and Westbere Marshes.

The alternative route, within Network Rail land, will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB293 IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB293) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 25th January 2013, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath CB293 has been extended for a further 6 months, until the 24th January 2014.

The path is closed to facilitate ongoing overhead power line refurbishment works, and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The path is closed between Woodgate Road and its junction with Bridleway CB279A (NGR TR 168 500).

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATHS CB225 & CB225A, BARHAM & ADISHAM) PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT

MODIFICATION ORDER 2013

The above named Order made on 20th June 2013 under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 will extinguish:-

The entire width of that length of Public Footpath CB225 which commences on Out Elmstead Lane (U11636) at NGR TR 2070 5109 (Point A) and runs for 266 metres in an easterly direction to its junction with Dover Road (A2) at NGR TR 2096 5105 (Point B).

The entire width of that length of Public Footpath CB225A which commences on Dover Road (A2) at NGR TR 2104 5102 (Point C) and runs for 473 metres in an easterly direction to its junction with Public Bridleway CB268 at NGR TR 2152 5103 (Point D).

All directions are general, all distances are approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) (Tel: 01622 221517) (email: laura.wilkins@kent.gov.uk) before 20 August 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH EBX21 AT DOVER) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2013

The above Order was made on 10th July 2013 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a public footpath with a width of 3.5 metres which commences on Connaught Road at NGR TR 3199 4221 (point A on the Order plan) and runs south-east for 56 metres to its connection with public footpath EBX9, known as the Godwyne Path, at NGR TR 3203 4218 (point B on the Order plan). (Between the points A-B on the Order plan).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Dover District Council, The Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PG or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 2nd September 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HB56, HB57 AND HB58.

IN THE TOWN OF HYTHE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH HB56, HB57 AND HB58 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 16A - C, AS INSERTED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994 SECTION 1

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close lengths of Public Footpaths HB56; HB57 from Twiss Road to Prospect Road and HB58 from Twiss Road to Stade Street from 1330 hours until 2200 hours on WEDNESDAY 21st AUGUST 2013.

The paths will be closed to facilitate the holding of the Hythe Venetian Fete.

Safe and convenient alternative routes are available. The alternative routes that can be used by pedestrians are Twiss Road, HB64, Napier Gardens and Stade Street.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Edward Dene

Contact Centre 0845 345 0210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MT21/MU5 IN THE PARISHES OF HILDENBOROUGH & TONBRIDGE

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MT21/MU5 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath MT21/MU5, between its junction with Public Bridleway MT50 (Horns Lodge Lane) and its junction with Elmshurst Gardens from the 5th August 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before December 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michele Snoding

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 21st July 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

A2042 BAD MUNSTEREIFEL ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road, Ashford, as follows.

The westbound carriageway of the A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road will be closed from the A2070 'Cloverleaf' junction westwards to the junction with Romney Marsh Road.

Closures are planned to commence from 23 July 2013 for up to 2 nights, between 20:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

The alternative route is via A2070 (Cloverleaf) westbound offslip, Sheepfold Lane, Bluebell Road, Forestall Meadow and A2042 Romney Marsh Road.

The eastbound carriageway is unaffected.

B2042 BAD MUNSTEREIFEL ROAD, ASHFORD (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the construction of a road junction off the A2070 into the new Cheeseman's Green development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on part of B2042 Bad Munstereifel Road, Ashford, as follows.

This applies to the eastbound carriageway, from the roundabout junction with Romney Marsh road to where the road becomes the A2070 Trunk Road.

This takes effect from 5 August 2013 for an estimated period of up to 1 year or until the works have been completed, and applies when the relevant signage is displayed on site.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

LOUNGE ON THE FARM, CANTERBURY (RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public during the 'Lounge On The Farm' Music Festival, Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic and pedestrians, as detailed below.

Restrictions will be in effect from 08:00 hours on Thursday 25 July until 12:00 hours on Monday 29 July 2013 inclusive, except where otherwise stated.

MERTON LANE, CANTERBURY will be closed between the junctions with B2068 Nackington Road and Stuppington Lane.

There will be managed access into and out of Nackington Road for those involved in or attending the 'Lounge on the Farm' event, and for residents and businesses within the closed section of road.

The alternative route for through traffic is via B2068 Nackington Road, Old Dover Road, Ethelbert Road, South Canterbury Road and Stuppington Lane.

30 MPH SPEED LIMIT

B2068 NACKINGTON ROAD, CANTERBURY–a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph will be imposed between the junction with Bridge Road and the existing 30 mph / 40 mph speed limit sign to the south of the junction with Langton Lane

NO WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on the sections of road defined below (except for emergency services), when indicated by 'No Waiting' cones on site.

B2068 NACKINGTON ROAD–from the junction with Bridge Road to the existing double yellow lines to south of the junction with Langton Lane

MERTON LANE NORTH–from the junction with Nackington Road for a distance of 250 metres, to the entrance to the Rugby Club

CHURCH LANE – from the junction with Nackington Road, for its entire length

FOOTPATH CLOSURES

The use of sections of various footpaths in the vicinity of Merton Farm will be prohibited as detailed below, as indicated by signage and maps on site.

The restrictions on footpaths will be in force from Friday 26 July 2013 through until Sunday 28 July inclusive.

CB348 / CC66A – the Public Footpath between Nackington Road and Merton Lane will be closed for its entire length.

CC65 – the Public Footpath from Nackington Road, along Merton Lane through Merton Farm (TR 149 549) will be closed for its entire length.

CB358 – the Bridleway will be closed from Merton Farm (TR 149 549) to the junction with Footpath CB357

The temporary road and footpath closures and diversion routes will be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the event.

NARGATE STREET, LITTLEBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Nargate Street, Littlebourne, as follows.

Nargate Street will be closed for its entire length.

The closure is planned from Friday 9 to Wednesday 14 August 2013 inclusive, except Sunday

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside working hours, apart from on Sunday.

The alternative route is via Wickham Road, Wickham Lane, The Street, Wingham Lane, A257 Canterbury Road, Wingham Road and Canterbury Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY AREA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JULY 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads throughout the Canterbury area, as follows.

The roads affected, dates and extent of closures, and alternative routes are as shown below.

LADYWOOD ROAD, STURRY closed for its entire length

29– 31 July

Diversion via Hawe Lane, Popes Lane, Hillbrow Avenue and River View

CHESTNUT AVENUE, CANTERBURY closed for its entire length

1–3 August

No diversion as the road is a *cul-de-sac*

WOODLANDS ROAD & WOODLANDS LANE, ADISHAM closed for their entire length

31 July – 2 August

Diversion via Poor Start Lane, Bramling Road, Adisham Downs Road, Pond Hill, The Street

YORK ROAD, CANTERBURY closed for its entire length

30 July–1 August

Diversion via A28 Wincheap, Victoria Road, St Mildred's Place, Martyrs' Field Road

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of York Road will be suspended to allow access when this is safe

COLDHARBOUR LANE, BEKESBOURNE closed between Highland Court Farm and Bramling Road

5 – 10 August (except Sunday)

Alternative route via Poor Start Lane, Bramling Road, Adisham Road, Chalkpit Road, School Lane, Station Road, Bifrons Hill, Town Hill, High Street, Bridge Hill

WATERY LANE, PETHAM closed for its entire length

5 – 9 August

Alternative route via Town Road, Jersey Road

DUCKPIT ROAD, PETHAM closed for its entire length

12– 14 August

Alternative route via Dean Hill, Thorn Lane, B2068 Stone Street, Chequers Hill, Church Lane, The Street

GORDON ROAD, CANTERBURY closed for its entire length

12 – 20 August (except weekend)

Alternative route via A28 Wincheap, Victoria Road, St Mildred's Place, Martyrs' Field Road

THE STREET, BISHOPSBOURNE closed for its entire length

15 – 16 August

Alternative route via Frog Lane, Bonny Bush Hill, Rose Lane

MERTON LANE NORTH, CANTERBURY closed for its entire length

19 – 22 August

No Alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*

STODMARSH ROAD, STODMARSH closed between Hollybush Lane and Grove Road

19 – 23 August

Alternative route via Hollybush Lane, Wickham Court Lane, Grove Road

DERING ROAD, HERNE BAY closed for its entire length

23 – 28 August (except Sunday)

Alternative route via Kings Road, Station Road, Spenser Road

MARLEY LANE, HOATH closed for its entire length

2 & 3 September

Alternative route via Church Road, Mill Road, Old Tree Road, Hollow Road, Church Lane and Hollow Street

WADDEN HALL & GOGWAY, WALTHAM closed for its entire length

2 – 5 September

Closure: whole length

Alternative route via Duckpit Road, Dean Hill, Thorn Lane, B2068 Stone Street

CANTERBURY ROAD, HERNE–Service Road closed outside numbers 241 – 257 Canterbury Road

9 – 18 September (except Sunday)

No Alternative route

Due to the nature of the repairs being carried out, it will not normally be possible to re-open roads outside working hours. If a closure spans a weekend, the road will be re-opened when no work is being carried out.

For roads with no alternative routes, every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible, when safe to do so.

HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

BOB DUNN WAY DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marsh Street north and eastbound traffic on Bob Dunn Way Dartford to allow the Midnight man event to take place on or after 27th July 2013 and the 28th July2013 between the hours of 6pm and 5am

The alternative route is via Burnham Road, Victoria Road, Hythe Street, Westgate road, Home Garden, East Hill, The Brent,London Road,St Clements Way Crossways Boulevard, Littlebrook Manor Way , Binnie Road and Brunel Way

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

STRAND STREET, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the workforce and public during site construction works in connection with Sandwich Flood Defence Project, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit waiting on part of Strand Street, Sandwich.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time between 08:30 hours and 17:00 hours each day on the section of Strand Street defined below, when indicated by the relevant signage and single yellow lines.

This affects the north side of Strand Street between the junctions with Richborough Road and The Butts, and applies for a distance of 50 metres extending westwards from a new temporary access point north of the junction with The Butts.

The restrictions are planned to commence from 5 August 2013 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JULY 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads throughout the Dover area, as follows.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

COOMBE LANE, WOODNESBOROUGH closed between Marshborough Road and Moat Lane

Wednesday 24 July 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route Marshborough Road, New Street, The Street and Moat Lane

WEST STREET, DEAL closed between Duke Street and Western Road

Wednesday 31 July 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via Western Road, Albert Road, A258 London Road and West Street

GOLF ROAD, DEAL closed between Ark Lane and Harold Road

Monday 5 August 2013 for 2 weeks

Alternative route via Harold Road, The Marina, Beach Street, Broad Street, Queen Street, West Street and Western Road

WESTERN ROAD, DEAL closed between West Street and Ark Lane

Monday 19 August 2013 for 4 days

Alternative route via Golf Road, Harold Road, The Marina, Beach Street, A258 Broad Street, Queen Street, West Street

WINANT WAY, DOVER closed at the junction with Green Lane

Tuesday 27 August 2013 for 2 days

Alternative route via Green Lane and Roosevelt Road

ROOSEVELT ROAD, DOVER closed at the junction with junction Buckland Close

Thursday 29 August 2013 for 2 days

Alternative route Green Lane and Winant Way

LIVERPOOL ROAD, WALMER closed between Alexandra Road and Archery Square

Wednesday 4 September 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via Warwick Road, A258 Dover Road and Archery Square

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the roads outside normal working hours.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

LEYWOOD ROAD, MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of to access to the overhead network cabling works, Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Leywood Road, Meopham , on or after 5th August 2012 between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30 for up 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Oaklands and little Delmar Farm.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Leywood Road, White Horse Lane, Dean Lane and Gravel Hill Shaw.

WROTHAM ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to replacement of gas mains in Wrotham Road, Gravesend

Kent County Council has made the following Order to become effective on, or after 22nd July 2013 for 19 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The following Temporary restrictions will apply at different phases of works when relevant signage is in place

No entry into Hillingdon Road from Wrotham Road, Gravesend.

No entry into The Fairway from Wrotham Road, Gravesend.

No entry into Dennis Road from Wrotham Road, Gravesend.

No entry into Hillingdon Road from Singlewell Road, Gravesend.

No entry into The Fairway from Singlewell Road, Gravesend.

No entry into Dennis Road from Singlewell Road, Gravesend.

The existing cycle lane in Wrotham Road – from 40m south of Dennis Road, Gravesend to 50m north of The Fairway, Gravesend. will be suspended for the duration of works.

Alternative routes will be via Wrotham Road, Chalky Bank, Harman Avenue, Singlewell Road, Cross Lane West and Wrotham Road.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

BOWER LANE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING & SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bower Lane, Maidstone, on or after 22 July 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed. The One Way Order will be suspended to allow for access.

The road will be closed between Evelyn Road and Newton Close.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, Bower Place.

FARLEIGH LANE, LEVEL CROSSING, BARMING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for RSM inspection and rails, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Farleigh Lane, Barming,

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

on or after 10 August 2013 for up to 2 nights between 23.00hrs and 06.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via B2010 Lower Road, B2163 Teston Road, A26 Tonbridge Road, Farleigh Lane.

HIGWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

BESSELS GREEN ROAD, CHEVENING, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bessels Green Road, Chevening, Sevenoaks, on or after 8th August 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed before the pub at Westerham Road to junction Cold Arbor Road. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: from the closure at Cold Arbor Road north to Worships Hill, west at the junction towards the end of Bessels Green Road at the pub. The route when approaching from the West is the same but reversed.

BETENSON AVENUE, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Betenson Avenue, Sevenoaks , on or after 6th August 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Pontoise Close to Bradbourne Vale Road/Maidstone Road. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: part closure of Betenson Avenue so from the closure at Pontoise Close east to Robyns Way. Robyns Way leads north to Bradbourne Vale Road (A25) which then leads west to the end of Betenson Road to the closure. The route when approaching from the west is the same but reversed.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

A2 LONDON ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A2 London Road, Sittingbourne, as follows.

A2 London Road will be closed between the junctions with Victoria Road and Chalkwell Road, with no direct access between Sittingbourne and the A249.

Closures are planned for the evenings of 9, 10 & 12 August 2013 from 20:15 hours until 00:00 hours (midnight).

The alternative route is via A2 London Road, Key Street, Sheppey Way, B2006 Staplehurst Road, St Paul's Street, Mill Way, Eurolink Way, Crown Quay Lane, A2 St Michael's Road and London Road.

CHESTNUT STREET, BORDEN (WIDTH RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the use of Chestnut Street as a diversion during closures of the A249 Trunk Road for maintenance works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily suspend the 6' 6" width restriction on Chestnut Street, Borden.

The A249 closures and resultant use of Chestnut Street are planned to commence on 5 August 2013 for a period of up to 5 nights, between 20:00 hours through until 06:00 hours each night

This Order applies when the relevant 6' 6" width limit signs are covered or removed.

The Order suspends the Kent County Council (Various Roads, Borden, Bredgar, Bicknor, Tunstall and Sittingbourne) (Width Restriction) Order 1990.

B2006 CROWN QUAY LANE, STAPLEHURST ROAD & SHEPPEY WAY, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on sections of B2006 Crown Quay Lane, B2006 Staplehurst Road and Sheppey Way, Sittingbourne, as follows.

These roads will be closed overnight on the dates shown below, from 20:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

B2006 CROWN QUAY LANE, SITTINGBOURNE closed between Eurolink Way/Crown Quay Lane Roundabout and St Michael's Road.

6 & 7 August 2013

Alternative route via B2006 Eurolink Way, Mill Way, St Paul's Street, Staplehurst Road, Sheppey Way, A2 Key Street, London Road and St Michael's Road

B2006 STAPLEHURST ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE closed between Bobbing Interchange and Sonora Way.

13 August 2013

Alternative route via Sheppey Way, A2 Key Street, London Road, St Michael's Road, B2006 Crown Quay Lane, Eurolink Way, Mill Way, St Paul's Street and Staplehurst Road

SHEPPEY WAY, SITTINGBOURNE closed southbound only from Bobbing Interchange to Key Street.

14 August 2013

Alternative route via B2006 Staplehurst Road, St Paul's Street, Mill Way, Eurolink Way, Crown Quay Lane, A2 St Michael's Road, London Road and Key Street

SOUTH STREET, QUEENBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of South Street, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, as follows.

South Street will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with High Street.

The closure is planned to commence from 24 July 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via High Street, West Street and South Street.

VARIOUS ROADS, SWALE (MICRO-SURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER AUGUST 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in the Swale area, on or after 10 August 2013.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as follows.

Closures will be between 08:30 hours and 17:30 hours each day, with roads otherwise re-opened.

CROCKHAM ROAD, HERNE HILL closed between Butlers Hill and Thread Lane

10 & 11 August 2013

Alternative route via Maidstone Road, Charing Hill and Bowl Road

FROGNAL LANE, TEYNHAM closed between Lower Road and London Road

11 & 12 August 2013

Alternative route via Lower Road, Station Road and London Road

SUTTON BARRON ROAD, BORDEN closed between Pond Farm Road and Wrens Road

13 August 2013

Alternative route via Pond Farm Road, The Street and Hearts Delight

PRESTON LANE, FAVERSHAM closed between The Mall and St Catherine's Drive

10 August 2013

Alternative route via Preston Grove, London Road and The Mall

These works are weather dependent, and adverse conditions may prevent some works going ahead on the dates shown. For any that are postponed, revised dates will be notified locally and signposted on site.

Certain roads may need a brief repeat closure 1-2 weeks after the closures shown above, to allow for replacement of lining, with closures notified by signage on site.

HIGHWAYS – THANET

CALLIS COURT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on sections of Callis Court Road, Broadstairs, as follows.

Callis Court Road will be closed in 2 phases planned to commence from 25 July 2013 for an estimated total period of up to 6 weeks.

The start date of Phase 2 depends on weather and ground conditions, and will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

PHASE 1 – closure between the junctions with Northcliffe Gardens and Lanthorne Road

The alternative route is via Elmwood Avenue, B2052 North Foreland Hill, North Foreland Road and Lanthorne Road

PHASE 2 – closure between the junctions with Lanthorne Road and Grange Road

The alternative route is via Stanley Road, Lindenthorpe Road, King's Avenue and Lanthorne Road.

B2052 NORTH FORELAND ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of street lighting replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of B2052 North Foreland Road, Broadstairs, as follows.

North Foreland Road will be closed between the junctions with Lanthorne Road and Crescent Road.

The closures are planned to commence from 22 July 2013 for up to 3 days, between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Lanthorne Road, Callis Court Road, Elmwood Avenue and B2052 North Foreland Hill.

Access for residents in North Foreland Avenue and Foreland Heights will be maintained.

SOUND ISLAND FESTIVAL 2013 (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

In the interests of road safety during the Sound Island Music Festival, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic in the vicinity of Quex Park, Birchington, as shown below.

Restrictions will apply from Saturday 27 July at 04:00 hours and will remain in force when the relevant signage is displayed on site. Restrictions will be removed as soon as it is safe to do so, by no later than Sunday 28 July 2013 at 23:59 hours.

B2050 MANSTON ROAD, BIRCHINGTON will be closed to through traffic between the junctions with B2048 Park Lane / Acol Hill and Shottendane Road.

There will be managed access on Manston Road, restricted to traffic attending the music festival.

MARGATE HILL, ACOL will be closed to through traffic, its use restricted to event-bound traffic which will initially be directed north eastwards to reach the event, then subsequently directed south westwards to leave.

The alternative route for through traffic is via B2050 Manston Road, B2190 Spitfire Way, Minster Road, The Street and Acol Hill.

B2048 PARK LANE, BIRCHINGTON will be closed to northbound traffic from the junction with B2050. Park Lane will therefore become one-way, southbound only, from Birchington towards Acol.

The alternative route for northbound traffic is via Crispe Road, Seamark Road and A28 Canterbury Road

There will be No Left Turn into Park Lane from the following side roads

Anvil Close, Holton Close, Stringer Drive and Brunswick Road

There will be No Right Turn into Park Lane for traffic leaving Quex Estate and from the following side roads

Stone Barn Avenue and both junctions of Woodland Avenue

Brunswick Road may be closed at the junction with Park Lane at certain times if there is an operational need for this. Access to the A28 will remain via alternative side roads

VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE & RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JULY 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in Margate and Ramsgate, as follows.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as follows.

PARAGON STREET, RAMSGATE closed for its entire length

26 July to **6 August 2013** (excluding weekends)

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access when this is safe.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, Townley Street, Royal Road and B2054 Paragon

BATH PLACE, MARGATE closed for its entire length

6 – 16 August 2013 (excluding weekend)

Alternative routes

Eastbound via Bath Road, Dane Road and Grotto Hill

Westbound via Clifton Gardens, Northdown Road and Bath Road

CLIFF STREET, RAMSGATE closed for its entire length

19 – 23 August 2013

Alternative route is via Queen Street, Grundy's Hill, Albert Street and Rose Hill

Roads will be closed between 08:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day, weekdays only, and otherwise re-opened.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time on both sides of each of the roads between 08:00 hours and 17:00 hours on the days that works are being carried out.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (MICRO-SURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER JULY 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Thanet area, as follows.

The roads affected, dates and times of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

B2052 STONE ROAD, BROADSTAIRS closed between the junctions with Lanthorne Road and Knights Avenue

26 July 2013 for up to **3 days**, 09:30 hours to 15:30 hours

Alternative route via Lanthorne Road, King's Avenue and Knight's Avenue

RUMFIELDS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS closed for its entire length

28 July 2013 for up to **3 days**, 09:00 hours to 15:00 hours

Alternative route via A256 Westwood Road, A255 Broadstairs Road and Fairfield Road

PRESTON ROAD, MANSTON closed for its entire length

31 July 2013 for **1 day**, 07:30 hours to 16:30 hours

Alternative route via Manston Court Road and Manston Road

TIVOLI ROAD, MARGATE closed for its entire length

1 August 2013 for up to **3 days**, 09:30 hours to 14:30 hours

Alternative route via Hartsdown Road, A28 Canterbury Road, Marine Terrace, Belgrave Road and Eaton Road

These works are weather dependent, and adverse conditions may prevent some works going ahead on the dates shown. New dates will be notified for any that need to be postponed.

Certain roads may need a brief repeat closure 1-2 weeks after the closures shown above, to allow for replacement of lining, with closures notified by signage on site.

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

BACK LANE, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of UK Power Networks cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Back Lane, Ightham, on or after 5 August 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Ightham Road for approximately 30m.

The alternative route is via Ismays Road, Ightham Road.

BROADWATER ROAD, EAST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of overhead cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broadwater Road, East Malling, on or after 6 August 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Well Street and Pikey Lane.

The alternative route is via Pikey Lane, Well Street.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

DEAKIN LEAS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install drainage and reconstruct the road, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Deakin Leas,

Tonbridge, on or after 25 July 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A2014 Pembury Road to outside number 8.

The alternative route is via A2014 Pembury Road, The Drive, Baltic Road.

WALDERSLADE WOODS, AYLESFORD/ BOXLEY (TEMPORARY 30MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a highway improvement scheme, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any greater speed than 30mph on Walderslade Woods, Aylesford/ Boxley, on or after 10 August 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The restriction will be in force between the junctions of Tunbury Avenue and Forestdale Road.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

SPRING LANE, BIDBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage works to install gullies and pipework to control spring water, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Spring Lane, Bidborough, on or after 5 August 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Bidborough C of E Primary School and number 4.

There is no alternative diversion although access will be maintained.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 21st July 2013**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

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PLANNING

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00533	Erection of a single storey link-to extension, erection of roof and dormers, a detached garage, refurbishment of existing stables, and associated internal and external alterations **West End House, Coldred Road, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 4BE**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00546	Removal and re-instatement of six bollards **Public Conveniences, The Quay, Sandwich**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00547	Removal and re-instatement of ten bollards **10 Bollards To SE Side Of Toll Bridge, The Quay, Sandwich, CT13 9EN**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00548	Proposed construction of flood defence walls including relocation of listed bollards to both sides of Southern abutment **Sandwich Toll Bridge, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, CT13 9QR**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00549	Variation of conditions 2 and 8 of planning application DOV/12/00112 (allowed on appeal) with regards to parking provision **Land Adjoining Bay Hill House, The Droveway, St. Margaret's Bay, Dover, CT15 6DJ**	**CAF**
DOV/13/00551	Installation of two replacement windows **Flat 5, 1 Worthington Street, Dover, CT17 9AF**	**CON**
DOV/13/557	Erection of single storey side extensions, first floor rear extension; construction of terraces, roof and underground garage; creation of vehicular access, associated alterations and excavation works **Granville House, 35 Granville Road, St. Margaret's Bay, Dover, CT15 6DS**	**CON**
DOV/13/00502	Erection of a detached dwelling with carport, creation of parking and associated works **Plot Adjacent to Summerholme, 104 Wellington Parade, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8AF**	**ARW**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
ARW - Affects a Public Right of Way **CON** - Within Conservation Area
LCN - Listed Building in a Conservation Area
CAF - The proposal affects a Conservation Area

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

Public Notice

21 July 2013

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice of confirmation of Public Path Order

Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 257 and Schedule 14

Canterbury City Council

The Canterbury City Council (Footpath CB68 Part) – Land adjoining 73 Sweechgate, Broad Oak, Sturry, CT2 0QR

On 21 June 2013 the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the above order.

The effect of the order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath running from a point marked A on the order map north north westerly for 40 metres to a position marked B on the order map to create an alternative footpath for use as a replacement to a line running from a point marked A on the order map in a north north easterly direction for 34 metres to a point marked C on the order map to Sweechgate with a width of 2.7 metres throughout.

A copy of the confirmed order and the order map may be seen at the Canterbury City Council offices free of charge between 9am and 5pm on Monday to Friday. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £2.

This order comes into force on the date on which Canterbury City Council certify that the terms of Article 2 of the order have been complied with but if any person aggrieved by the order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date of this Notice.

Mark Ellender
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/01173/FUL: The Loft, Little Bursted Farm, Lynsore Bottom, Upper Hardres, CT4 6EQ Proposed replacement dwelling and outbuildings. **Applicant: Mr D E Breaker** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//13/01262/OUT: Albert Mews, Land to the rear of 107-113 Sturry Road, and Parham Close, Canterbury Outline planning application for the erection of two storey building to provide student accommodation (comprising 12 studio apartments) with associated cycle storage shelter, bin enclosure and car parking. **Applicant: Pavilion Property Group** Reason: Major development.
CA//13/01269/FUL: The Marlowe Centre, St Peter's Lane, Canterbury Demolition of existing buildings and the redevelopment to provide a terrace of nine dwellinghouses and two flats with associated car parking. **Applicant: Rogate (St Peter's Lane) Ltd** Reason: Major/setting of listed building/conservation area.
CA//13/01270/CAC: The Marlowe Centre, St Peters Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BP Conservation area consent for the demolition of existing buildings and the redevelopment to provide a terrace of nine dwellinghouses and two flats with associated car parking. **Applicant: Rogate (St Peter's Lane) Ltd** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//13/01275/ADV: 10 St George's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SR Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated external signage **Applicant: EE** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01276/CAC: 97A The Street, Adisham, CT3 3JW Demolition of existing pigeon loft and aviary building and erection of new dwelling and garage. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Jeavons** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//13/01277/FUL: 97A The Street, Adisham, CT3 3JW Demolition of existing pigeon loft and aviary building and erection of new dwelling and garage. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Jeavons** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01293/FUL: 7 Prospect Place, Canterbury, CT1 3JU Conversion of loft space to home office, including the insertion of a dormer in the rear roof slope **Applicant: Dr P Clarke** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01297/FUL: Blue Dolphin Park, Reculver Lane, Herne Bay, CT6 6SS New roof structure and light weight metal roofing over existing felt roof. **Applicant: Mr Edward James** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01298/FUL: Strode Park House, Lower Herne Road, Herne, CT6 7NE Proposed single storey rear extension to form therapy pool and associated changing and wet room areas. **Applicant: Strode Park Foundation** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01303/FUL: Quaives Cottage, Seaton Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RW Extension of existing outbuilding. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs G Hayward** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01305/VAR: Escombe House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Variation of condition 02 (drawings) of planning permission CA/13/00723 for extension and alterations to listed dwelling, including demolitions. **Applicant: Mrs H Crowder** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/01313/LB: Escombe House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Extensions and alterations to listed building; including demolitions. **Applicant: Ms H Crowder** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/01318/FUL: Flat 1, 2 and 4, 1-3 St Anne's Road, Whitstable, CT5 2DW Replacement of timber windows with upvc windows at flats 1, 2 and 4. **Applicant: Quality Amusements Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01324/FUL: 34 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable, CT5 1DU First-floor rear extension to roof. **Applicant: Ms N Jeffries** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01333/FUL: 12 Brunswick Square, Herne Bay, CT6 5QF Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr K Hall** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 12 August 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 19 July 2013

Folkestone Hythe & District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0588/SH+ - Saltwood House Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Listed building consent for the re-instatement of a window to external ground floor kitchen wall following the removal of the existing blockwork and the insertion of a timber framed window to match.

Y13/0603/SH - Admiralty House 127 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Erection of a first floor extension to detached garage.

Y13/0672/SH - 29 Westbourne Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 2HY - Change of use from residential (C3) to a school boarding house (C1)

Y13/0688/SH - 11 - 15 The Old High Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1RL - Change of use from cafe/restaurant (Class A3) to a mixed use micropub serving pre-prepared food (Class A3/A4).

Y13/0587/SH - Land Adjacent 47 Links Way Linksway Folkestone Kent - Section 73 application for the variation of condition 28 of planning permission Y13/0289/SH for the erection of a non-food retail warehouse unit (2654 sq. m gross internal floor area including first and mezzanine floors) and provision of associated accesses, parking, service yard, landscaping and associated works, to allow changes to the layout of the service yard, boundary/retaining walls to the service yard, and OPC area.

Y13/0595/SH - 121 Church Road Folkestone Kent CT20 3EW - Erection of 14 dwellings being details pursuant to outline planning permission reference Y12/0055/SH (details relating to scale, landscaping and appearance).

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/01588/HOUSE **30 Eridge Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
- Proposed ground and first floor extension and entrance door canopy (CA)

13/01913/LBC **1 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
- Listed Building Consent: Change the folding sliding doors to the garden room and basement from aluminium doors with timber internally to all aluminium doors (LB)

13/01897/FUL **Three Chimneys Hareplain Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Extension to the existing kitchen and garden room (LB)

13/01898/LBC **Three Chimneys Hareplain Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Extension to the existing kitchen and garden room (LB)

13/01916/HOUSE **2 Earls Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Two storey extension, loft conversion and alterations (CA)

13/01751/LBC **The Bell Bedgebury International School Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Change of use of main house to single dwelling with alterations. Conversion of chapel to a single dwelling (LB)

13/01879/HOUSE **Old Forstal Ladham Road, Goudhurst**
- Single storey lean-to side extension (LB)

13/01881/LBC **Old Forstal Ladham Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey lean-to side extension (LB)

13/01872/FUL **Bassetts Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Extension to the existing stable block (which involves a change of use from agricultural land). Creation of a small wildlife pond. Creation of menage (LB)

13/01836/FUL **Sheppard Insurance Brokers York House, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use of the courtyard area to the front of 71-73 High Street to A1 use (CA) (LB)

13/01864/FUL **Blue Lawn 65 High Street, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use from A1 (shop) to A2 (CA)

13/01902/FUL **56 Frant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Erection of 2 detached 5 bed dwelling houses (CA)

13/01514/LBC **19 Lower Green Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall**
- Listed Building Consent: Addition of French doors to rear elevation (LB)

13/01711/HOUSE **3 Orchard Cottages Ashurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- First floor rear extension (LB)

13/01712/LBC **3 Orchard Cottages Ashurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - First floor rear extension (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 20 July 2013

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/0226/S - TUTSHAM FARM, HUNT STREET, WEST FARLEIGH, KENT, ME15 0NE - Retrospective application for change of use of land to equestrian use for commercial purposes. **Reason: 6, 7**

MA/13/0636/S - WELL COTTAGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - Retrospective application for the erection of a garden shed. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0929/S - HERONDEN, CHART HILL ROAD, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EZ - Erection of agricultural barn on land forming part of the residential curtilage of Heronden House. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0940/S - HERONDEN, CHART HILL ROAD, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EZ - Demolition of existing guest accommodation building and erection of a replacement building for use ancillary to the main house. **Reason: 1, 7**

MA/13/1014/S - GREAT OAK FARM, FRIDAY STREET, EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3EA - Change of use of land for the siting of a temporary dwelling for a period of three years. **Reason: 7**

MA/13/1110/N - EX MOD TRANSMISSION STATION, COLDBLOW LANE, THURNHAM, KENT - Demolition of existing MOD structures and erection of five 4-bedroom detached dwellings with provision of internal roadways. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/1127/S - BELL HOTEL, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AY - Conversion of public house to 4No. residential units. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1149/S - LAND AT LANGLEY PARK, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Outline application for the erection of up to 600 dwellings, with associated local centre comprising convenience store (Use Class A1) (1,300sqm - 1,500sqm), retail/commercial units (Use Class A1, A2, A3, A5 and/or D1) (400sqm GFA), and public house (Use Class A4) (550sqm - 700sqm); a two form entry primary school (with pre-school provision and a community facility); public open space; allotments; nature conservation area; and landscaping; with all matters reserved except for the following:
1) Means of vehicular access to the site from Sutton Road, and the spin road within the site;
2) 170 dwellings (phase 1) with its associated open space;
3) Drainage provision, including the surface water attenuation facility, strategic foul and surface water drainage infrastructure and pumping station;
4) Earthworks, to include ground re-modelling.
Reason: 1, 6, 7, 8, 9

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
8 - Application is the subject of an Environmental Assessment.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **4th August 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 21st July 2013.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, FAVERSHAM) (EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2013

Notice is given that Kent County Council has an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order under sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders).

The effect of the Order, which was made on 17th July, 2013, and will come into force on 22nd day of July, 2013, for an experimental period of 18 months, is to regulate the driving of vehicles in the Faversham Pedestrian Zone.

(a) Between 6am and 6pm on Mondays to Thursdays, and between 6am and 10am and between 4pm and 6pm on Fridays and Saturdays, entry to the pedestrian zone via Court Street will be restricted to permit holders, goods vehicles making deliveries or collections, and to disabled persons vehicles. Between 10am and 4pm on Fridays and Saturdays all vehicles, except those of permit holders, will be prohibited.

(b) Between 6am and 6pm on Mondays to Fridays, and between 6am and 10am and between 4pm and 6pm on Saturdays, entry to the pedestrian zone via East Street will be similarly restricted. Between 10am and 4pm on Saturdays all vehicles, except those of permit holders, will be prohibited. There will be a reversal of the existing 'one way' in East Street, Faversham (between Newton Road and Preston Street) to enable traffic to enter East Street from the Newton Road/Whitstable Road direction. Southbound traffic in Crescent Road will be unable to turn right into East Street as Crescent Road is not wide enough to provide a right turn lane.

Permits will be available to enable residents to access their properties (on-street parking restrictions must be complied with); to enable access to off street parking; and for access by businesses.

The experimental measures are being introduced to improve pedestrian safety, by preventing as far as is practicable, conflict between pedestrians and vehicles in the town centre.

The Order contains provisions allowing the Council to modify or suspend the Order or any provision of the Order after carrying out statutory consultations in accordance with Section 10(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Full details are contained in the Experimental Order which, together with a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Orders, maps showing the location and effect, and a copy of any Orders which will be amended by the Experimental Orders may be examined at the Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT, and Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8NY, during normal office hours.

Kent County Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of the Experimental Orders should be continued in force indefinitely. Any person may object to the making of the Orders for the purpose of such indefinite continuation within a period of six months:

(a) beginning with the day on which the Experimental Orders come into force, or

(b) if the Order is varied by any Order made by the County Council or modified by the Council pursuant to Section 10(2) of the 1984 Act, beginning with the day on which the variation or modification or the latest variation or modification came into force.

Any such objection, which must be in writing and state the grounds on which it is made, should be sent to Technical Services, Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT within the relevant time period specified above.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Swale Borough Council (01795 417061) during normal office hours.

This Notice is published by Swale Borough Council on behalf of Kent County Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 5 AUGUST 2013.

SW/13/0774:
Lawful Development Certificate application for use of a detached garage as a separate dwelling (existing) - Foxenden Manor, Seed Road, NEWNHAM; **REASON 6**

SW/13/0798:
Change of use of upper floors to form 2 residential maisonettes; retention of basement as offices - 4 Trinity Road, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0807:
Retrospective change of use for part of garden centre in Old Granary into café - The Old Granary, Standard Quay, Abbey Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1, 2 & 6**

SW/13/0808:
Alteration of existing shop to provide 3 one bed flats above existing shop and 1 two bedroom dwelling to the rear utilising existing rear internal courtyard and rear vehicular access - The Stationery Shoppe, 91 Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0822:
Loft conversion - 5 x velux roof windows - 56 Plantation Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0833:
Erection of straw storage barn and hardstanding - Collington Farm, Ashford Road, BADLESMERE; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0840:
Variation of condition (3) attached to SW/12/0179 to change vertical cladding material from timber to pasitsol coated box profile steel sheet in moorland green - Collington Farm, Ashford Road, BADLESMERE; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0841:
Demolition of existing shed and construction of one new house with parking area for two cars and private garden - Land to the rear of 20-32 Tanners Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (PROVISION OF ON-STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012 (AMENDMENT NO. 4)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes the following: -

To install disabled persons' parking places in the vicinity of the following locations: - 56 Bouverie Road West, Folkestone; 38 Bridge Street, Folkestone; 71 Dover Road, Folkestone; 7 Park Road, Folkestone; 62 Royal Military Avenue, Folkestone; 21 Rossendale Road, Folkestone; Adjacent to 36 Radnor Park Road, Wiltie Gardens, Folkestone; 26 Victoria Road, Hythe; 64 Marshlands, Dymchurch; 2 Elizabeth Cottages, Marsh Crescent, New Romney.

To revoke the following disabled persons' parking places: - 22 Bridge Street, Folkestone; 9 Charlotte Street, Folkestone; 23 Stuart Road, Folkestone;

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (DPPB Consultation), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email DPPB.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Amendment 4" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 12th August 2013 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Application for a variation of a premises licence - Licensing Act 2003

Cousins Snooker and Pool Club
Suite D, 19 Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury

Notice is hereby given that Mr Ali Gun, 236 Joyce Avenue, Edmonton, London, N18 2TS

has applied to Canterbury City Council for a variation of the above premises licence to sell alcohol between the hours of 11:00 and 05:00 hours Monday to Sunday, and provide late night refreshment between the hours of 23:00 and 05:00 hours Monday to Sunday at the above premises. The premises to close 1 hour after the end of permitted hours for licensable activities.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:

Friday 9th August 2013
AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD.
16 HAWTHORN ROAD, ASHFORD TN23 3LT

Application for the grant of a premises licence - Licensing Act 2003

555 Pizza
72 Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2QD

Notice is hereby given that 555 Pizza Co Ltd of the above address has applied to Canterbury City Council for a variation of the above premises licence provide late night refreshment between the hours of 23:00 and 05:00 hours Monday to Sunday at the above premises.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 1YW by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:

Firday 9th August 2013
AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD.
16 HAWTHORN ROAD, ASHFORD TN23 3LT

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

Local job search Local job found

CRICKET

There's no reason a batsman should walk – it's all up to the umpire

KOS Media has teamed up with Kent batsman Michael Powell for a column throughout the 2013 season in which the Welshman will give an unrivalled insight into life on and off the pitch with the county.

When it comes to technology, I think cricket is leading the way in sport.

With innovations like Hawk-Eye and the snickometer, it sorts things out. It stops those absolute howlers and mistakes creeping into the game.

That's what we saw with Stuart Broad not being given out by Aleem Daar against Australia last weekend, when Australia had already used up their referrals and so couldn't challenge it.

Having the technology is definitely a good thing as you can finally get the right decisions made.

However, sometimes it takes time out of a game if you're referring a lot, so having just the two unsuccessful referral attempts is probably about right.

All the technology and the television coverage on Sky especially helps your normal cricket-lover understand the game a lot better – that's where it's great.

Technology was always going to come into cricket. It came into tennis and next year football will be having the goal-line technology, which is a good thing.

It has become part of the game for the crowd and they enjoy the build-up on the big screen – it adds to the occasion, really.

I've stood on occasions when I've known I've hit it and been given out when I haven't. It's swings and roundabouts.

When it comes to standing and walking, why would a batsman make that big decision for an umpire who gets paid thousands of pounds to be there?

There is no reason a batsman shouldn't stand his ground and wait for a decision. I've got no qualms about Broad standing.

Some people might call it cheating. If you were in a situation where you needed three runs to win an Ashes series and you nick it and get caught, do you walk when you're in that stressful situation?

I find it very strange that India don't use it – it must have cost them. They decided they don't want to do it.

You can imagine, though, that with 50,000 people watching at a Test match against Australia where there is loads of noise in the ground, the umpire isn't going to hear a snick behind. It just makes sense to go upstairs and check.

With football it has taken a long time considering there is a lot of money in the game. In the Premiership you could drop a few places because of goal difference, which costs clubs millions of pounds, so I can't believe it hasn't happened sooner.

FOOTBALL

Burton not ready to quit yet after Gills exit is confirmed

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

AT the age of 36, Deon Burton could be forgiven for wanting to give up and reflect on a career that has seen him play in all four professional leagues in England and represent his country at a World Cup.

However, heading towards his 37th birthday in October, the former Jamaican international still has the hunger to play, despite seeing his season-long spell at Gillingham come to an end last week with his contract offer being withdrawn.

The veteran of no fewer than 13 clubs and three appearances at the 98 World Cup found himself in a familiar position of training down the park or in the gym with friends until he hooked up with League Two side Scunthorpe United earlier this week.

Last season most definitely showed there is still life in his legs yet, with the father of four racking up 31 starts in total and scoring 13 goals as the Gills fought their way to the League Two title. Burton rolled back the years to make telling contributions, most notably a brace to seal a memorable win at Rotherham.

"Obviously it was done for football reasons. I have a good relationship with the manager and it's just football, isn't it? You move on," he said. "It was very disappointing when I got the news. It was left that the club would be in touch with my agent about signing a new contract.

"Obviously we would have spoken to other clubs earlier had we known the situation. You never know, I could end up back at Gillingham. Football is a funny old game."

Since then he has been ploughing on with his own pre-season programme before trialling with the Iron, for whom he scored in a 4-1 win over Frickley Town on Tuesday while the Gills were losing 2-1 to Ipswich Town in their first home friendly.

"Being without a club is very, very stressful, as you can imagine," he said. "Being out of any job is very stressful. We've all got bills to pay. I've been in the job long enough and know what it takes. The transfer window is open for a long time still, so I'm not panicking.

"If I'm not going back to a club the same day as everybody else, I'm at a disadvantage. I try to emulate what I would be doing with a club on my own. I've been training with a few other players that are out of work – we all get together and do a bit."

Before joining the Gills last summer he had the chance to join MK Dons after trialling with the League One side, but the chance to link up with Gills boss Martin Allen, with whom he had worked at Brentford, proved too tempting.

"I wasn't going to Gillingham at 35 to sit on the bench and see out my career," he said. "I got 40 games and 13 goals in total and topped it off with promotion.

"Everyone says League One and League Two are not too different. I know myself I can keep going. It's down to someone to be interested and we will go from there."

His disappointment at not returning to the club is built on the fact that he knows how much potential there is for more success after last season's title-winning antics.

"When I first signed and before I even played I was hoping for top six, but once the season got going from the second or third game we were saying we could definitely win this," he said. "We were trying to keep our feet on the ground.

"In the middle of the season we just had to go back to basics and sort out the little problems. We had beaten most of the teams already, so we just had to crack on again.

"It's so disappointing I won't be about to continue on from what's been built – it's a very solid base and they can do very well."

While Burton wants to carry on playing, he does have one eye on life off the pitch.

"I'm in the middle of doing my UEFA B badge – I would like to do coaching if it came about," he said. "I've done some things around the schools in my local area and at my children's school.

"I've still got lots of football left in me. I don't want to be thinking about a player-coach role just yet. I just want to concentrate on playing.

"I just think the way I've managed my body as I've got older and the way managers have managed me has helped me prolong my career. As long as I'm ready for a Saturday, the rest doesn't matter too much."

Picture: ADY KERRY

DISAPPOINTMENT: Deon Burton was hoping to be with Gillingham in League One after promotion

DEON BURTON: FACTS

Clubs: Portsmouth, Cardiff City, Derby County, Barnsley, Stoke City, Walsall, Swindon Town, Brentford, Rotherham United, Sheffield Wednesday, Charlton Athletic, Gabala (Azerbaijan), Gillingham

Appearances: 590

Goals: 142

International record for Jamaica

Appearances: 59

Goals: 13

SPORTS SHORTS

WORLD SUPERBIKE

Camier expecting a tough Russian trip

LEON Camier is expecting a demanding ride as the World Superbike Championship heads to Moscow.

The Ashford rider is 10th in the WSB standings at the halfway mark as it heads to the Russian track for the second in the series' history.

The FIXI Crescent Suzuki rider put in a solid ride at Imola in Italy in the last round, picking up two seventh-place finishes.

Camier said: "Moscow is a tough and demanding track – it's like Imola in that way although quite a different layout. We found a couple of things at the test and it will be good to try them out over a race weekend."

FOOTBALL

Referees given boost by funding support

THREE Kent football leagues have been given funding that will improve the retention of referees within the game.

The East Kent Youth League, the Kent Girls and Ladies League and Medway Messenger Youth League have each been granted £2,500 to help with refereeing development.

The funding from Sport England will support a referee appointment officer in leagues that have little or no cover.

Referee development officer Nick Dunn said: "The additional funding that has now been approved will allow these leagues to focus on increasing the number of fixtures in the league to have a qualified referee."

SPEEDWAY

Injury brings Mason back to track action

DAVID Mason is set to return to the Kent Kings line-up in the Eurolink Cup on Monday.

The Sittingbourne team's former captain was sacked after two meetings at the start of the season but returned as a coach at the end of last month to pass on his experience to the club's younger riders.

Now he will return to riding in place of Sam Woods, who suffered tendon damage to his shoulder in a crash at Mildenhall last Sunday.

Mason said: "There are no expectations from me. After a long talk with Len [Silver] I'm here to balance the team and, more than anything, help the youngsters. It's handy for these guys – if they want any advice I'm on hand."

ATHLETICS

Gemili has age on his side in pursuit of sub-ten time

Adam Gemili is jetting off to Russia for the World Championships next month... he talks to **Greg Miles** about chasing a sub-ten-second run

HAVING to choose between the 100m and the 200m is not exactly a bad problem for sprint star Adam Gemili to have, and on his current rate of progress he might as well stick at both.

Incredibly, it is just short of 18 months since he took up athletics full-time, leaving behind his dream of a career in football, having had spells at Chelsea, Reading and latterly Dagenham & Redbridge.

Since then the Dartford runner and Blackheath & Bromley Harriers AC member has become 100m junior world champion in Barcelona – that happened a year ago last week, when he was becoming European Under-23 100m champion in Finland. He also squeezed in a semi-final appearance at the Olympics last summer.

Then throw in the records of running the fastest 200m by a Brit in five years earlier this summer, and becoming the fastest junior Brit ever in Barcelona, and you have an enviable force.

To top it off this week, he was selected to represent Great Britain at the World Athletics Championships in Moscow in August in the 200m and the 4x100m relay but not the 100m.

"Everything that has happened has moulded me as a person and matured me. It's about knowing how to act in certain situations and around certain people, and how to be more responsible," he said.

"I trained in America in April. I was on the same track with Tyson Gay and all of his group. People always want to see another person succeed, especially if they are young and coming into the sport. The main thing is to be patient and to develop at your own pace. After all, I'm only 19 years old.

"It took me a long time to recognise what I had achieved and where I came from. It is amazing to think of the time I had last year. I have just got to work extra-hard this year, which is the main thing. I have to keep enjoying it."

With his rate of progression continuing to attract attention, it is only natural that he is asked about when we can expect to see him run under 10 seconds in the 100m, but patience is the key.

"It's an aim, it's not the main aim," he said.

Picture: DECA TEXT&BILD

A YEAR ON: Adam Gemili set a new record in winning the 100m at the Junior World Championships

"It's all about competition performance at the moment. In terms of distance, I think the 200m is a big possibility. I ran reasonably well in it a couple of weeks ago.

"I'm naturally a 100m sprinter and the 200m feels a bit longer to me. I don't mind running either – whichever one I run I'm happy."

The 4x100m relay is also on the agenda and he has certainly had to learn the hard way after being at fault for GB's disqualification from the Olympic semi-final last summer by going too early in the baton handover.

"I have got over the relay and what happened," he said. "I took a lot of abuse for that, which wasn't nice as an 18-year-old.

"I have moved on from it and we ran a great relay at Gateshead the other week, which shows we can compete with the top guys in the world."

Away from the track, he has just finished his first year at the University of East London, where he is studying sport and exercise science. Combining his training six days a week with a degree has its challenges.

"The first year is done. I managed that pretty well, which I'm pretty happy with," he said. "It was hard at first, training at early times in the morning, getting up at 7am and 6.45am and then going on to a lecture.

"At first people saw me and recognised me from running at the Olympics and asked for pictures – now they see me every day and know me.

"I'm just an ordinary guy, exactly like them, and just had a great opportunity to run at the Games."

Injury nightmare for Dobriskey but joy for Asher-Smith

LISA Dobriskey, one of Kent's mainstays at international events in recent years, will heartbreakingly miss out on the World Championships in Moscow.

The 29-year-old from New Romney was hoping to set a qualifying time at the British Championships last weekend, but just 600m into her 1,500m race in Birmingham she pulled out with an injury.

After a scan on Tuesday morning, the same day the Great Britain World Championship team was being announced, she revealed her season was over.

The injury adds to a number that the Ashford Athletics Club star has endured in recent seasons. She was a big doubt for last summer's home Olympics, having developed blood clots on her lungs a matter of months before. Fortunately, however, she recovered in time but finished ninth in the Olympic final.

There was also disappointment for Hythe 400m hurdler Jack Green, who has also ended his season for personal reasons. The 21-year-old has had a frustrating season with injuries and below-par performances. He crashed out in the first round in Finland in attempting to defend his European Under-23 crown last weekend.

There was better news for rising star and Blackheath & Bromley athlete Dina Asher-Smith, who has been selected for the 200m for the trip to Moscow.

The 17-year-old ran a time of 23.14 seconds in May, which put her fourth on the British junior all-time list in that distance, and is the fastest time by a European junior this year.

Picture: ADY KERRY

OUT: Dobriskey misses rest of the season

SUPERBIKES

Byrne hopes to keep home record intact

SHANE Byrne will be hoping to keep up his formidable home record at Brands Hatch this weekend.

The British Superbike Championship returns this weekend to the county and the Grand Prix circuit, where Byrne, from Sittingbourne, has won the last seven races.

The Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki rider will be hunting a repeat performance, with Alex Lowes, James Ellison, Josh Brookes and Ryuichi Kiyonari on his tale in the leaderboard.

"We have a record of wins at Brands Hatch, but I don't intend on resting on my laurels as the last round at Snetterton showed that we need to keep improving if we want to stay ahead.

Picture: ANDY KELLY

FORM: Byrne has won seven

"Alex, Josh, James – they all want to be scoring more points than me and then there is Kiyo, too," he said.

"Brands Hatch is my home round and I certainly don't go to an event to finish second, so we will work hard and hopefully that puts us where we need to be."

Byrne is currently on 207 points at the top of the riders' standings, 32 points ahead of Lowes.

The two races take place on Sunday afternoon. For more information, visit www.britishsuperbike.com.

NON-LEAGUE TALK

Prior joins Darts as Wallis calls it quits

THERE has been one in and one out at **Dartford** this week, with former loan striker Jason Prior signing.

The 24-year-old made nine appearances at the club on loan from AFC Wimbledon in the second half of last season, scoring once in the 2-0 win at Telford during his stay and impressing enough for Darts boss Tony Burman to hand him a one-year deal.

Leaving the Conference Premier club is Jon Wallis, who has left because of family and work commitments.

Dover Athletic have been given a defensive boost with the signing of former QPR defender Terrell Forbes. The 31-year-old has dropped to the Conference South, having played in League Two with Aldershot Town last season.

Picture: ADY KERRY

HAPPY: Burman's signed Prior

Margate have sealed a quadruple signing. Left-sided player Ryan Dolby and defender Joe Vines are returning and will be joined by right-back Elliott Cox, 21, and 16-year-old George Whitlock.

Cox, who has impressed while on trial, started his career at QPR and was most recently part of the Hastings FA Cup side that lost to Middlesbrough in the third round in January.

Whitlock has signed after playing in the Essex League for Clapton FC last season.

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